SMC revitalizes Roadrunner Trails
Page B1

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Today's The Herald-Palladium included inside

Niles Star

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Thistledown & Row celebrates one year of business

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader Correspondent

BUCHANAN — As the world emerges for spring, Thistledown and Row is emerging ready to showcase all they have to offer to patrons.

The downtown Buchanan restaurant, located at 103 Days Avenue, recently celebrated their first year of business at the start of January and ended the month winning the Judge's Award Winner at the St. Joe Today Chili Tour, beating out several local favorite restaurants with their venison-based chili.

"We're super proud," said General Manager Shawn Renfro. "Our food is phenomenal. It's been a long, rough, hard year, but it's not where you start, it's where you finish. We're concentrating on the future. We've made it through the obstacles and now we're really focusing on letting people know that we're here."

Renfro referenced several challenges faced by the eatery since opening, including severe storm damage that temporarily closed the restaurant and coping with the construction that affected all of downtown Buchanan for an extended period. Though she noted it was the most difficult situation she's weathered in her career, she also noted the way the difficulty brought the best out of Buchanan businesses and the staff at Thistledown and Row.

"Buchanan is very special," she said, noting how the construction brought out the community connection and forced businesses creative solutions.

She watched her team come together to weather storms, both literally and figuratively, with employees wearing several hats throughout. With the challenges behind them, the team at T&R are now focused on their mission of providing a memorable dining experience.

"We're an elevated atmosphere, an elevated menu, but not fine dining," Renfro said.

See **RESTAURANT**, page A3

Adventure is out there

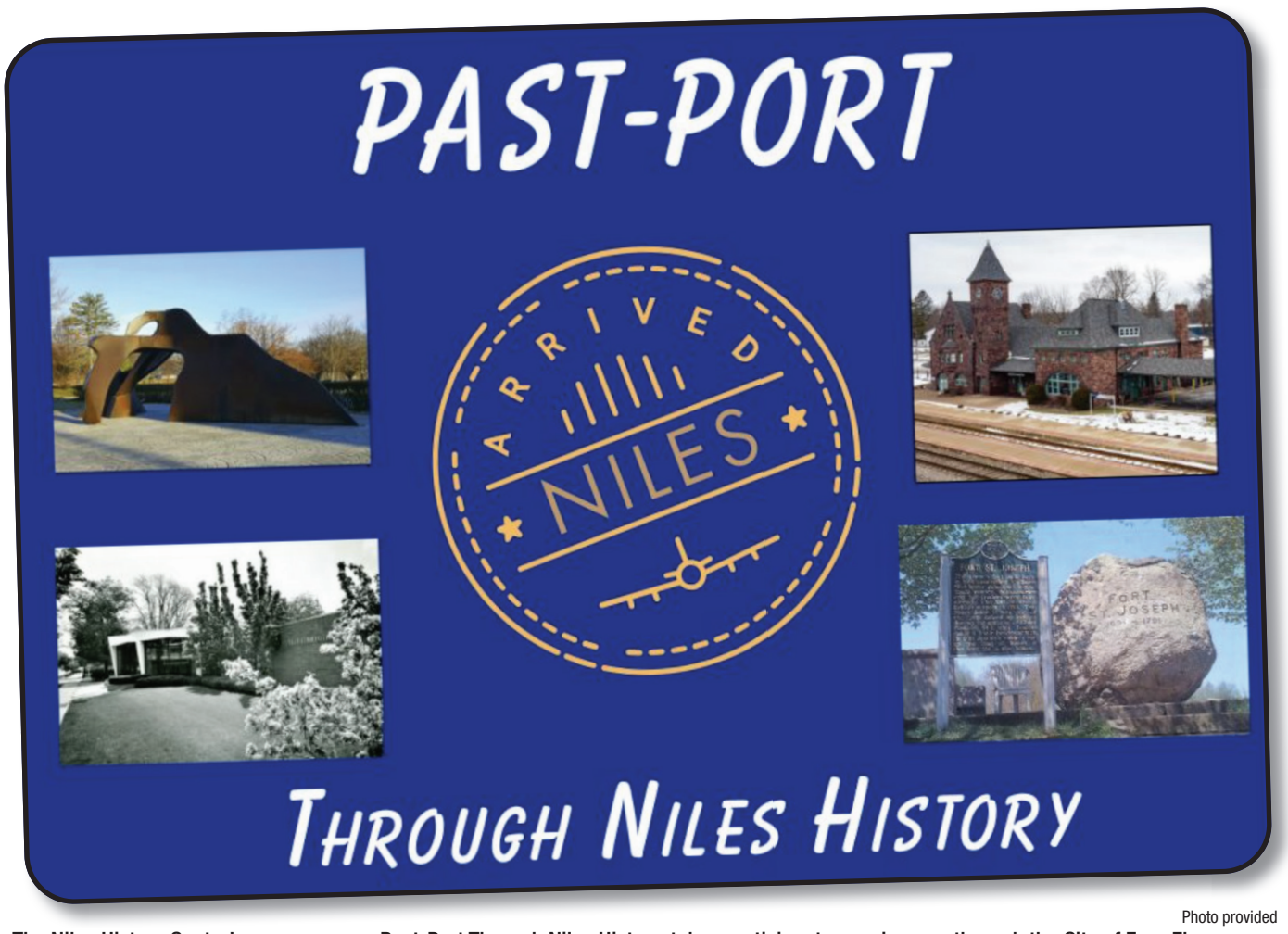

Photo provided

The Niles History Center's new program, Past-Port Through Niles History, takes participants on a journey through the City of Four Flags.

New museum program leads participants through Niles history

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The Niles History Center is offering a new, interactive program taking participants on a journey through Niles' storied history.

The new program, Past-Port Through Niles History, officially launched on Monday. Participants pick up their "past-ports" at the Fort St. Joseph Museum before visiting seven locations throughout the city. Once at the location, participants can answer a question on the past-port or do an activity. Once the past-port is complete, participants return to the museum to receive a sticker and a postcard for their efforts.

"We were thinking of something we could do this week with it being spring break," said Niles History Center Assistant Director Mollie Watson. "[NHC Director Christina Arseneau] thought it would be fun to do something where people could go to different historic spots in the community so that you're not just coming to the museum, they're going around to different places."

The museum, located at 508 E. Main St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free. According to Watson, interest in the program has been positive and expects participation to increase as the weather continues to warm.

EDWARDSBURG

School board praises community in aftermath of severe weather

By JUSTIN FLAGEL
Leader Correspondent

EDWARDSBURG — The Edwardsburg School Board reflected on district and community responses to the recent extreme weather at their March 23 meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Courtney Szucs and members of the board expressed gratitude for the efforts of both the local community and those outside Edwardsburg in the aftermath of the tornado that struck the village at the beginning of the month. They also expressed pride for the work of those in the school community who assisted in clean-up and support.

More inside

■ Whitmer seeks federal aid after deadly tornadoes **Page A4**

■ Fund tops $70,000 for tornado relief **Page A6**

The board approved several bids for a variety of services and purchases, including the replacement of network switches around the district, the replacement of remaining filterless water fountains and bottle fillers in order to meet state requirements and the outsourcing of much of the summer lawn care in the district to allow maintenance staff the ability to concentrate on summer duties within the buildings during the low-use season.

Trustees set tuition rates for the 2026-27 school year. At the recommendation of Szucs, the same 2025-26 foundation allowance was approved as a contingency in the case that new rates are not set by the state by July 1 in effort to help families

See **EDWARDSBURG**, page A3

Pokagon Band donates 1,000 Easter food boxes

By PMG STAFF

NEW BUFFALO — The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana, and its Four Winds Casinos are pleased to announce a donation of 1,000 food boxes to help those in need for the Easter holiday on Sunday, April 5.

The distribution will be coordinated by Four Winds Casinos, Michigan Food Pantries, and Feeding America Indiana through 8 different locations. Pokagon Band Citizens will also be among the recipients. Each food box contains a smoked ham, a bag of Yukon potatoes, a can of pineapple slices, a can of creamed corn, two boxes of corn bread mix, a bag of mini marshmallows, light brown sugar, and strawberry Jello.

The Pokagon Band and its Four Winds Casinos previously donated 1,000 food boxes in April 2025 for Easter, 1,000 food boxes in November for Thanksgiving, and 1,800 food boxes in December for Christmas.

Michigan Food Pantries will make a portion of the donated Easter food boxes available at the following locations:

■ Decatur Human Services

■ Salvation Army Benton Harbor

Feeding America Indiana will make a portion of the donated Easter food boxes available at the following locations:

See **FOOD**, page A6

Don Campbell / PMG

Volunteers help distribute boxes containing items for an Easter dinner, including hams, on Thursday at the Benton Harbor Salvation Armyr. Four Winds Casinos and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians were among the organizations donating boxes.

6 54708 09550 1

Today's obituaries • Page A3

John Simpson
Everett Potter
Robert Davis
Davis Emerson
Carrie Parchmon

Inside today's Herald-Palladium

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Comics	B5	Home & Garden	C7	Television	D3

FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Call Frankly at 269-687-7700 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

■ After that brutal winter we had, I'm happy that spring has arrived.

■ The national debt just crossed $39 Trillion, almost doubling since Donald Trump vowed to erase it. His administration will bankrupt this country, just like he bankrupted all his casinos. How is this MAGA?

■ Just visited the new Edwardsburg library for the first time. The wait was worth it.

■ Watching Speaker Johnson present a brand new "award" to President Trump was so embarrassing for the US.

■ Thank you Jane Laing, Dave Moran and Tom Carlson for your years of dedication to Dowagiac schools.

■ Remember last month when Trump bragged about alleged $1.50 per gallon gas prices?

■ Michigan looks unbeatable. Heck of a basketball weekend.

■ Artificial Intelligence is killing jobs and killing social media. Nobody knows what's real anymore. Fake images, and fake audio on social media will be our demise.

■ Looking for summer jobs for my children. Where are they?

■ Small acts of kindness go a long way. Make someone's day by doing something totally unexpected.

Women in military topic for SMC Academic Speaker Series

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

DOWAGIAC — The public is invited to attend Southwestern Michigan College's Tuesday, April 14, Academic Speaker Series featuring women in the U.S. military to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary.

The 6 p.m. program takes place in the theatre of the Dale A. Lyons Building on SMC's Dowagiac campus.

Questions and answers follow the presentation by Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) (Retired) Rhea R. Pruett of Caledonia and Jackson College Professor of History Laura Ritchie, Michigan State Ambassadors for the Military Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

RITCHIE

Ritchie, completing her Ph.D. in history from Liberty University, combines her passion for historical scholarship with a deep commitment to preserving and sharing the stories of those who served.

As a Michigan State Ambassador for the Military Women's Memorial, Ritchie works to honor and celebrate the contributions of women in the military throughout American history.

In her role, she raises awareness of the often-overlooked stories of service and sacrifice by military women, ensuring their legacy is recognized and remembered by future generations.

PRUETT

Pruett, born in Bakkeveen, Friesland the Netherlands, came to Michigan with her family in December 1956, when she was 14 months old. She became a U.S. citizen at 17.

Pruett possesses a bachelor's degree in business management from Davenport University and is a graduate of the U.S. Army's Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course.

She finished high school in 1973 and began her military career in April 1974 with her enlistment into the Michigan Army National Guard.

Pruett completed basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala., as a member of the U.S. Women's Army Corps (WAC) with follow-on training at Fort Ord, Calif., as a personnel records clerk.

From January 1975 through April 1978, she was on active duty with the U.S. Army, serving at Fort Carson, Colo., and at Nelligan Kaserne, Germany.

She returned to the Michigan Army National Guard in May 1978, continuing her duties as a military personnel sergeant.

On Oct. 22, 1980, she received a direct appointment to Warrant Officer One. She served in a variety of military assignments throughout her career supporting soldiers and their families.

She had the opportunity to participate in leadership visits to Latvia, Germany, Bosnia and Afghanistan.

A key success of Pruett's career was her selection on Feb. 1, 2002, as the second State Command Chief Warrant Officer for the Michigan Army National Guard – a key leadership position held until her retirement.

Pruett was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer Five on Oct. 27, 1999, with the distinction of being the first female soldier in Michigan to attain this rank. She has the added distinction of being the first female soldier in the U.S. Army to be selected for the position of Command Chief Warrant Officer.

Pruett retired from the Michigan Army National Guard on Feb. 1, 2014, with 39 years and nine months of military service.

She received many military awards in her career with the highest being the Federal Legion of Merit.

From January 2016 until December 2021, Pruett was the Assistant President for Veterans Affairs for the United States Army Warrant Officer Association (USAWOA).

In May 2022, she was appointed as Michigan's Ambassador for the Military Women's Memorial.

She and her husband, Col. (Retired) Ray Pruett, have a daughter, Becky.

Photo provided

A woman and a 9-month-old were hospitalized following a crash Wednesday in Jefferson Township.

Woman and infant hospitalized after 2-vehicle crash in Jefferson Township

By PMG STAFF

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP — A woman and a 9-month-old child were hospitalized following a two-vehicle crash Wednesday in Jefferson Township, according to the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of M-60 and Dailey Road in Jefferson Township.

The investigation shows that John Handlang, 22, of Coloma, was northbound on Dailey Road when he passed the stop sign and entered the intersection of M-60 and Dailey Road. Sophia Smith, who was traveling Westbound on M-60, collided with Handlang. Smith and her approximately 9-month-old passenger, were transported to South Bend Memorial Hospital by ambulance for injuries sustained in the crash.

Assisting Agencies in this crash were the Michigan State Police, SMCAS Ambulance Service, and Central Cass Fire. The crash remains under investigation.

WEATHER

Saturday: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 66. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Saturday Night: Showers likely before 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy; high near 44.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 57.

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Ranked choice voting group heckled, booted from Michigan GOP convention

By BETH LEBLANC
The Detroit News (TNS)

DETROIT — A ranked choice voting group that paid to attend the Michigan Republican Party convention Saturday said it was escorted from the Novi convention center premises by security after continued heckling by party members and state Rep. Matt Maddock.

Rank MI Vote said the Republican lawmaker from Milford repeatedly called volunteers "communists" and threatened one volunteer by indicating that, if he were in the parking lot, he would "kick your a--."

"We were having a productive day meeting like-minded, politically engaged convention attendees until Rep. Maddock chose to bully our volunteers and anyone who stopped to speak with us," said Jennifer Umphress, conservative working group director with Rank MI Vote.

Maddock, when asked whether he threatened the volunteers, said via text: "I threatened to expose them and I did."

Michigan GOP chair sorry he let Ranked MI Vote attend convention

State Sen. Jim Runestad, the chairman of the Michigan Republican Party, expressed some remorse for allowing the group to attend the convention.

"It was a regrettable decision to permit them to have a table," Runestad said. "Once concerns were brought to our attention, we revoked their table privileges and will be issuing a refund.

"I am not personally familiar with the Rep. Maddock situation," he added.

Maddock is a fourth-term lawmaker who serves as the majority vice chair for the House Appropriations Committee. Maddock's wife, Meshawn Maddock, is the former co-chair of the Michigan Republican Party.

Rank MI Vote last year tried to gather signatures for a ballot proposal that would usher in ranked choice voting, which allows people, generally, to rank candidates for a particular office, with the ultimate winner required to get a majority of the support. The group stopped collecting signatures late last year and the proposal is not expected to appear on the November ballot.

Ranked MI Vote said it wanted to discuss voting issues with delegates

Umphress said the group is well aware that the Republican leadership is largely opposed to ranked choice voting, but the group decided to inquire about a table at the convention in a good-faith effort to discuss the matter with delegates. Umphress said she herself has twice been a Republican delegate at the statewide convention.

"I got a gracious reply back on that from Team Runestad saying they would welcome us at the convention," Umphress told The News.

The group paid $500 for its table and had a total of 11 volunteers throughout the day Saturday inside Novi's Vibe Credit Union Showplace, where the convention took place.

The group said it had a "good morning" of engagement and debate with convention attendees until Maddock showed up at the table shortly before noon Saturday.

Maddock accused of making 'derogatory remarks' against group

The lawmaker made "repeated derogatory remarks," including referring to volunteers as communists, then set up a chair directly in front of the table to heckle and block individuals visiting the table, Rank MI Vote said in a statement.

Around noon, security removed Maddock's chair, and the staff attempted to block Maddock from the table until the lawmaker retreated, the group said.

At 1:15 p.m., Maddock returned with about 20 people who surrounded the table and shouted "communists" and "shame" at volunteers, the group said. Maddock, at one point, told a volunteer that "If we were in the parking lot, I'd kick your ass," Rank MI Vote said in a statement.

Security returned and then, later, at the request of the party leadership, asked Rank MI Vote to leave and escorted volunteers from the building, the statement said. At that point, Umphress said, volunteers were told there were safety concerns and that calls had been made to the national party.

Umphress said Runestad and the Republican leadership "were gracious and attempted to intervene to keep us safe."

Maddock calls Rank MI Voting members 'communists'

Maddock on Tuesday posted video on social media that he appeared to have taken at the convention, in which he referred to the volunteers as "straight up communists."

"None of us are communists," one volunteer responded, trying to argue that ranked choice voting benefited all voters.

"We stopped you guys dead in your tracks," Maddock told the volunteers, referring to the group's ballot proposal.

Gov. Whitmer directs agencies to help Michigan firms seeking tariff refunds

By BETH LEBLANC
The Detroit News (TNS)

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Thursday signed an executive directive that instructs state agencies to assess the impact of tariffs on Michigan industries and consumers and to aid businesses in seeking refunds from the federal government.

The order was signed on the one-year anniversary of Liberation Day, when President Donald Trump imposed wide-ranging tariffs on a variety of countries. The U.S. Supreme Court later ruled the tariffs were unconstitutional.

"Now that the Supreme Court has ruled that these tariffs are illegal, it's time for Michiganders to get their money back," Whitmer wrote in a statement Thursday. "This executive directive will show us the damage from these irresponsible tariffs and help get refunds back to Michigan businesses."

The Trump administration has set aside $166 billion in tariff revenues, but has "yet to establish a process for returning those funds," Whitmer said in her directive.

"Any process must be accessible to all importers who have paid tariffs, including small businesses and individuals who may not have access to expensive counsel to access refunds they are owed," the directive said.

On April 2, 2025, Trump signed an executive order that imposed a baseline tariff of 10 percent and even higher rates on "worst-offender" countries that exported more to the United States than they imported.

Ten months later, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Liberation Day import taxes imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, ruling the president overstepped his authority. He has since instituted a 10 percent duty on nearly all imported merchandise under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, which can remain in place for 150 days until July 24 unless extended by Congress.

Michigan House Speaker Matt Hall, when asked for a response to Whitmer's order Thursday, touted Trump's tariffs as having secured new investments in the U.S., including in auto manufacturing, and resulting in 20 trade deals that treated the U.S. more fairly. He did not address Whitmer's order directly.

"Michigan's auto sector is stronger with President Trump putting America first," said Hall, a Republican from Kalamazoo County. "These are smart trade policies that deliver results for Michigan workers and families."

A previous executive directive by Whitmer in July asked state departments on tariff impacts on Michigan's economy and resulted in a report, the governor said, that showed an increase in raw materials and productive costs. Some businesses absorbed the costs while others passed them on to consumers.

The new executive directive signed Tuesday gives four state departments 30 days to submit a report "illustrating the way that the use of tariffs has impacted Michigan industries and consumers" as well as raised costs for the state, households and businesses.

The departments tasked with doing so include the departments of Agriculture and Rural Development; Labor and Economic Opportunity; Transportation, and Treasury.

Other agencies, including the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, should review data they have on hand "that might shed light on the impact of new tariffs on the questions above and, if so, submit to me a report explaining that impact," Whitmer's directive said.

The directive instructs the departments of Labor and Economic Opportunity and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to be prepared to aid businesses and employers seeking refunds "as the federal government makes clear its process for receiving refunds."

EDWARDSBURG

From page A1

from out of the district plan for the school year.

The board also approved the 2026-27 School calendar and set graduation in 2027 for Thursday, May 27. Notable changes included giving students the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off and moving late starts to Thursdays. Szucs noted that the earlier start to the school year was a decision only being made for the 26-27 school year and was not intended to be an ongoing schedule change.

The school board reviewed and approved bids related to mechanical upgrades at both the high school and middle school for mechanical, electrical, plumbing and temperature controls. Construction will begin after commencement of the current school year and continuing through September of 2027.

Board members received highlights about the Alternative Learning Center from participating students, heard updates from several committees about ongoing work to increase and maintain teacher recruitment, improve student proficiency across curriculums, and continuing to increase and improve communication with parents and the border community.

RESTAURANT

From page A1

While the mission has always been to create a distinctive dining experience while keeping it approachable and affordable, the restaurant has focused even more on that since changing chefs. The kitchen is now led by Executive Chef Jennifer Marvel, along with Sous Chef Valarie Schutt.

Visitors will notice a shift from the previous french flare of the menu to a more American bistro selection. The food incorporates a little bit of style from many parts of the world, much like American culture. Many dishes make use of produce grown locally at Flatwater Farms and all desserts are made in-house.

Thistledown and Row has begun offering weekly specials, including a Wednesday Happy Hour featuring discount appetizers and drinks, specials on prime rib on Thursdays, and a Surf & Turf special every Friday. The menu continues to evolve, with new options in the works for spring, all factoring in a balance of quality while remaining "pocket friendly."

The bar offers homemade sodas called "fizzers" and a selection of wines and ciders, along with cocktails created using those same ingredients. The cocktails are distinct, with many honoring tradition cocktails while creating a new flavor profile with the cider base. The Mule in a Fur Coat is a take on the Moscow Mule while the Honey Bee Margarita utilizes Cyzer, a cider fermented with local wildflower honey, in place of tequila. In addition to a unique taste, the cocktails also offer a lower Alcohol by Volume measure.

"We put a lot of thought and love into our beverage program," said Renfro.

With warmer days in the near future, the restaurant will offer outdoor seating and continue their walk-up to-go window, where patrons may order food and drinks to enjoy while exploring downtown Buchanan or enjoy events and the social district. They also hope to add additional options for "street food".

While they work to create a special experience with every visit, the restaurant will also begin to host events in the near future. May will bring a "Thistledown After Dark" series, featuring a variety of entertainment attractions that may include comedy, dueling pianos, murder mysteries, and other entertainment not already available in Buchanan. A monthly dinner series is planned for the last Thursday of each month.

A special Easter menu will be available, focusing on "a sense of renewal" and shareable dishes for brunch, supper, and dessert. A multi-course "Easter Prix Fixe" will also be available on the holiday.

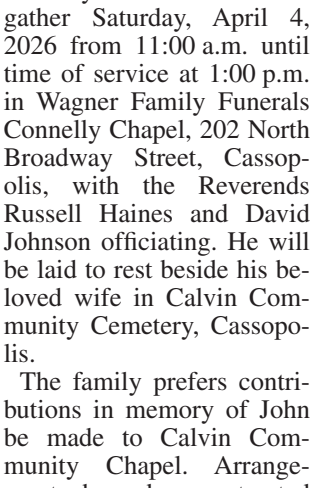
"There's a feeling and energy here that is very special," said Renfro.

Information on Thistledown and Row, including how to make reservations or rent the space for special events, is available at thistledownandrow.com.

OBITUARIES

John Simpson Jr.

January 21, 1935 – March 25, 2026



John Cloyd Simpson, Jr., 91, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Wednesday, March 25, 2026 in the comfort of his family's presence. His life began January 21, 1935 in Cassopolis, the second of four children born to John and Theolia Simpson, Sr. He married Patricia Ann Brooks on his thirtieth birthday, January 21, 1965 in Bangor, Michigan. She preceded him in death three days after their forty-ninth wedding anniversary in 2014.

John graduated in 1953 from Cassopolis High School. He served honorably in the United States Army, from 1955 to 1956. John served as an airplane mechanic in Big Delta, Alaska, during the Korean Conflict. He was a life-time member of Granite Lodge #11 as a 32nd degree Mason. John worked for Elkhart Brass Mfg. for forty-four years, retiring in 2000. He was an active member of the Cassopolis American Legion Post 206 Military Honor Guard.

John was a member of Calvin Community Chapel, where he served as groundskeeper since he was a child until passing it on to his son in 2024. John enjoyed going to South Dakota, pheasant hunting with family. A favorite pastime of his was playing pinochle with family and friends. John was an avid Michigan Wolverines, Detroit Tigers and Lions fan.

John will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by three daughters, Deborah (Brent) Steele, Donna (Charles) Adams, Jacqueline (Melvin) Thompson; one son, John (Tracey) Simpson II; thirteen grandchildren, Mya Steele, Marcus Allen, Rome Allen, Chelley Smith, Nathaniel Smith II, Lauren Brann, John "Snapper" Simpson, Cheryl Schoff, Felicia Williams, Cherae Broussard; twenty-one great grandchildren; one sister, Mary Jacqueline Haines and a host of nieces and nephews.

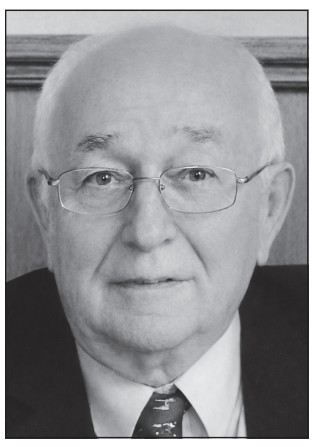
In addition to his beloved wife of forty-nine years and three days, he was preceded in death by his parents; two daughters, Cheryl Ann and Barbara Osborne; three grandchildren, Daniel Steele, Myrna Roberts, Ray Osborne; two sisters, Jo-Anne Bass and Theola Jane Scott.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, April 4, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. until time of service at 1:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis, with the Reverends Russell Haines and David Johnson officiating. He will be laid to rest beside his beloved wife in Calvin Community Cemetery, Cassopolis.

The family prefers contributions in memory of John be made to Calvin Community Chapel. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Everett 'Bill' Potter

January 12, 1942 – March 30, 2026



Everett "Bill" Potter, 84, of Dowagiac, passed away Monday evening, March 30, 2026 at The Timbers of Cass County in Dowagiac, MI. He was born on January 12, 1942, in Benton Harbor, MI, the son of the late Everett A. and Virginia A. (Radde) Potter. Bill graduated from Dowagiac Union High School in 1959 and Lake Michigan College, earning an associate's degree in 1961. He continued his education at Adrian College where he earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education in 1964. Bill was a Wood Shop teacher at Dowagiac Union High School for many years. He later worked for the State of Michigan as an employment Interviewer.

Bill was a life member of the Free & Accepted Masonic Peninsular Lodge #10 in Dowagiac. He joined the lodge in 1965 and held many positions over the years, including Worshipful Master for 5 years. Bill was a life member of the Order of the Eastern Star, where he was a worthy patron 18 times. He was a member of DeMolay International, where he held every position during his 35 year membership. Bill was also a 4-H leader for 25 years, where he taught ceramics, basket making and wood burning.

Surviving are his sister, Beverly Juroff; one niece, one nephew and extended family. Preceding him in death were his parents; long-time partner, Cheryl Ladd; and sister, Patricia Dwyer. Honoring Bill's wishes, cremation has taken place and his family is planning a graveside service for June 2026. Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel – Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. Those wishing to share a memory or leave condolences are invited to visit Bill's personalized webpage at www.clarkch.com.

Robert Davis

Robert Davis, 68, of Niles, passed away on March 28, 2026 at Corwell Health in St. Joseph. Funeral services will be Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 3:00pm with a time of visitation beginning at 2:00pm at Brown Funeral Home in Niles. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

David Emerson

David Paul Emerson, age 88, of Sodus, Michigan, passed away on March 30, 2026. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home in Berrien Springs. Services at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Berrien Springs on Monday April 6 at 12:00 noon. Visitation before the service two hours prior. Burial and Military honors after service at Rose Hill Cemetery. www.AllredFuneralHome.com.

Carrie Parchmon

Carrie Lee Parchmon, 88, passed away on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Leader Publications publishes death notices at a cost of $15. Extended obituaries are priced based on character count. For more information, or to submit an obituary, email obits@leaderpub.com.

Whitmer seeks federal aid after tornadoes

By BETH LEBLANC
The Detroit News (TNS)

Katy Kildee / The Detroit News / TNS

Prairie Rose Lane in Union City is seen March 7, strewn with debris from homes after the area was hit by a tornado the day before.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer asked President Donald Trump on Wednesday to declare a major disaster in three southwest Michigan counties in the wake of tornadoes that resulted in four deaths, multiple injuries and significant property damage.

If the request is granted, the area could qualify for federal individual assistance grants to help with home repairs, temporary housing and other recovery costs.

"I declared a state of emergency, but our work is just beginning," Whitmer said in a statement Wednesday. "As we wrap our arms around the affected communities, we are requesting federal assistance to ensure those affected have the resources they need to recover. Let's keep working together to keep people safe and help Michiganders rebuild."

The National Weather Service confirmed that four tornadoes hit southwest Michigan on the afternoon of March 6. The storm marked the state's deadliest weather event in nearly 50 years.

An EF3 tornado with winds of roughly 160 miles per hour tore through the Union City area in Branch County, injuring 12 and killing three. An EF1 tornado hit Edwardsburg in Cass County, resulting in the death of a 12-year-old boy.

An EF2 tornado with winds of at least 130 miles per hour also slammed Three Rivers in St. Joseph County and an EF0 tornado with winds peaking at about 85 mph touched down in Clarendon Township in Calhoun County.

Whitmer's request for individual assistance included the counties of Branch, Cass and St. Joseph.

"This critical step ensures our communities can access the resources they need to rebuild and have the tools necessary to support long-term recovery," said U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Tipton. "We will continue to work to support every community affected by this tragic weather event."

Local, state, and federal officials conducted a preliminary damage assessment of the areas hit on March 17 to assess the damage and determined it met the benchmarks for federal assistance, Whitmer said in her statement.

Officials established that across the three counties, 33 homes were destroyed, 74 sustained major damage and 207 had minor damage, Whitmer said in her letter. About 100 households may qualify for temporary housing assistance, 67 for housing repair assistance and eight for housing replacement aid. But those numbers may "severely underestimate" the impact on individuals and houses, Whitmer wrote.

The letter estimated the counties needed about $1.4 million in federal individual and housing aid grants, including roughly $201,000 for temporary housing assistance, $497,000 for repair assistance, $385,000 for replacement assistance and $454,000 for other needs assistance.

The damage from the southwest Michigan tornadoes, combined with a rash of other severe weather events over the past two years, has put a strain on state aid resources, especially in light of an expected state budget shortfall, Whitmer wrote.

"I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the state of Michigan and the affected county and municipal governments, and that supplemental federal relief assistance is necessary," the governor wrote.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will review the state's disaster declaration request and advise the president on whether to grant it.

In addition to grants for home repairs or temporary housing, individual assistance could take the form of low-interest loans to cover uninsured property or business recovery help.

Supreme Court seems poised to reject Trump's birthright citizenship limits

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court seemed poised Wednesday to reject President Donald Trump's restrictions on birthright citizenship in a momentous case that was magnified by his unparalleled presence in the courtroom.

Conservative and liberal justices questioned whether Trump's order declaring that children born to parents who are in the United States illegally or temporarily are not American citizens comports with either the Constitution or federal law.

Arguments lasted more than two hours in a crowded courtroom that included not only Trump, the first sitting president to attend arguments at the nation's highest court, but also Attorney General Pam Bondi and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, and in seats reserved for the justices' guests, actor Robert De Niro.

The case frames another test of Trump's assertions of executive power that defy long-standing precedent for a court with a conservative majority and a robust view of presidential power, which has largely ruled in the Republican president's favor. In the notable exceptions when the court has not, Trump has responded with starkly personal criticisms of the justices. A definitive ruling is expected by early summer.

Trump, the media-savvy president, spent just over an hour inside a courtroom that prohibits cameras and all electronic devices for arguments made by the Republican administration's top Supreme Court lawyer, Solicitor General D. John Sauer. The president departed shortly after lawyer Cecillia Wang began her presentation in defense of broad birthright citizenship.

After court adjourned, Trump posted on Truth Social: "We are the only Country in the World STUPID enough to allow 'Birthright' Citizenship!" Actually, about three dozen countries, nearly all of them in the Americas, guarantee citizenship to children born on their territory.

Justices ask about the order's legal basis

Trump heard Sauer face one skeptical question after another. Justices asked about the legal basis for the order and voiced more practical concerns.

"Is this happening in the delivery room?" Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson asked, drilling down into the logistics of how the government would actually figure out who is entitled to citizenship and who is not.

Chief Justice John Roberts suggested that Sauer was relying on quirky exceptions to citizenship to make a broad argument about people who are in the country illegally. "I'm not quite sure how you can get to that big group from such tiny and sort of idiosyncratic examples," Roberts said.

Justice Clarence Thomas sounded the most likely among the nine justices to side with Trump.

"How much of the debates around the 14th Amendment had anything to do with immigration?" Thomas asked, pointing out that the purpose of the amendment was to grant citizenship to Black people, including freed slaves.

Several courts have blocked the restrictions

The justices heard Trump's appeal of a lower-court ruling from New Hampshire that struck down the citizenship restrictions, one of several courts that have blocked them. The restrictions have not taken effect anywhere in the country.

The birthright citizenship order, which Trump signed on the first day of his second term, is part of his Republican administration's broad immigration crackdown.

Birthright citizenship is the first Trump immigration-related policy to reach the court for a final ruling. The justices previously struck down global tariffs Trump had imposed under an emergency powers law that had never been used that way.

Trump reacted furiously to the late February tariffs decision, saying he was ashamed of the justices who ruled against him and calling them unpatriotic.

He issued a preemptive broadside against birthright citizenship and the court on Sunday on his Truth Social platform, referring to "dumb judges and justices" and saying wealthy pregnant women from China and elsewhere come to the U.S. to give birth so their newborns will have American citizenship.

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How can I make the most of *spring gardening?*

Dreamstime / TNS

Make the most out of your spring gardening by coming up with a fool-proof gardening plan.

By ANGIE HICKS
Ask Angi (TNS)

Spring is the perfect time to reset your outdoor space and give your garden some much-needed attention. A little planning and preparation now can result in beautiful blooms for the rest of the year.

I recommend starting by assessing the current state of your garden and tidying up where possible. If you covered your plants in the winter months, uncover them and inspect them for damage. Remove old plants, mulch and any weeds that have already popped up. This is also a good time to test the pH of your soil, so you can make adjustments if necessary.

Once your garden is cleaned up and you know what you're working with, you can start to plan your spring gardening projects. Luckily, spring is the ideal time to plant most plants, so you have an endless number of choices. If you haven't already, I recommend looking up your USDA hardiness zone. Knowing your hardiness zone will help you choose plants that will work best in your area. You should also determine how much sun your garden receives, so you can pick plants that will thrive in your space.

Try to plant large plants like trees, bushes, and shrubs first, and then move on to smaller plants like flowers. Once you've added all your plants, add some mulch to your garden to prevent weeds and keep your garden as healthy as possible. Make sure you grade the mulch away from your house to direct rainwater away from your home and promote proper drainage. Water is your home's worst enemy, so now is also a good time to clean your gutters and ensure your downspouts are clear and ready to direct rainwater away from your home and garden. If you aren't able (or just don't have the time) to refresh your garden yourself, bring in a landscaping pro to do it for you.

To make the most of your efforts, you should keep a close eye on your garden for the next few months to make sure everything is healthy and growing properly. Keep your plants well-hydrated (but don't drown them!) and keep the area surrounding the new plants weed-free. If you want to take it a step further, you can also add other features to your garden, like path lights or a birdbath. This will elevate the space and put the finishing touches on your new-and-improved garden.

If you don't already have a garden, spring is the perfect time to create one. Find an area in your yard that gets a lot of sun and map out the space to determine where to put your garden. I recommend hiring a pro to remove the grass and get your soil ready for plants. Once the prep work is done, you can move on to the fun part – designing your brand-new garden and choosing your first plants.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column. ©2026 Ask Angi. Visit at angi.com.

Kitchen hacks that actually work, mostly

By DANIEL NEMAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch (TNS)

In journalism, we call it a man-bites-dog story. It's something unexpected. Something unusual.

I just saw a man-bites-dog video on the internet. Not a video, obviously, of a man biting a dog – although knowing the internet, there are probably lots of those available, too.

This was a man-bites-dog video because it showed a woman sharing kitchen tips that were actually clever and helpful.

I know. I couldn't believe it either.

Typically, when you see similar videos, they begin "I learned this from a chef" and then it shows something no chef would ever do, such as pour a box of Betty Crocker Triple Chocolate Fudge cake mix into a slow cooker and mix it with a can of root beer before topping it with instant pudding and then cooking it.

That stomach-churning example, incidentally, is from the same people that made the video with the worthwhile tips. Which proves that even a broken clock catches the worm, or something like that.

The website is a Facebook page called Home Hacks & Easy Snacks, and the video I am talking about is Genius Cooking Tips Part 2. I couldn't find Part 1 because I stopped looking after I saw their method for cooking a chicken breast. They dip it in a big bowl of ranch dressing (making the rest of the dressing unfit for consumption), roll it in crushed potato chips and fry it.

But I came to praise the cooking tips, not to bury them.

To skin raw fish, for instance, they place the fillet skin-side-up on a metal rack over a bowl of ice. They cover it with a kitchen towel and pour boiling water over the towel and the fish. The towel captures steam from the ice and the heat from the water cooks the skin just enough to make it easy to peel away.

They dice a red onion, more or less, by cutting wedges longitudinally and then turning the onion on its side and slicing it all the way across with a downward motion. The onion falls apart into small pieces of roughly even size.

For one hack, they crack eggs into a hot, greased skillet. They then pour water over them and cover the pan to steam them. The result is a combination of fried eggs and poached.

To toast several pieces of bread at once, they place a metal rack over a baking sheet and stand the bread up between the crossbars. They pop it into the oven and then, presumably four to five minutes later, the slices are all perfectly toasted.

And if for some reason you want to freeze bacon, they show how to space several pieces on a sheet of parchment paper, roll it up and then cut between the slices. Place the rolled-up slices in a plastic bag before storing it in the freezer for when you're cravin' bacon.

Admittedly – and unsurprisingly – not all of the hacks are winners.

The very first tip recommends rubbing butter around the rim of a pot of boiling water. I have no idea why, and they don't offer an explanation. I guess it's supposed to be obvious.

Another tip – "I learned this from a chef" – begins by placing a small bowl upside down inside a larger bowl and then filling the larger bowl with rice. They cover that bowl with a plate and flip it over so the plate is on the table. Remove the top bowl and then the inside bowl and you are left with a bowl made out of rice that you can fill with food of your choice.

Or you could save yourself all that work and make a well in the middle of a mound of rice. Same effect, half the time.

They suggest cooking pasta in a plastic tub with some water in the microwave, which can hardly be considered a hack, though I would never do it. And then they show some long, involved instructions on how to fold and cut a piece of parchment paper to fit perfectly inside a pan instead of just cramming the sheet in there like everyone else does.

And they also suggest using an electric mixer to mash potatoes, which would save time but result in gummy, gluey potatoes. When a commenter pointed out that an electric mixer makes the potatoes slimy, the content makers asked what would happen if they added cream instead of water.

They don't use milk or cream in their mashed potatoes? That's dog-bite-man worthy in itself, but not in a good way.

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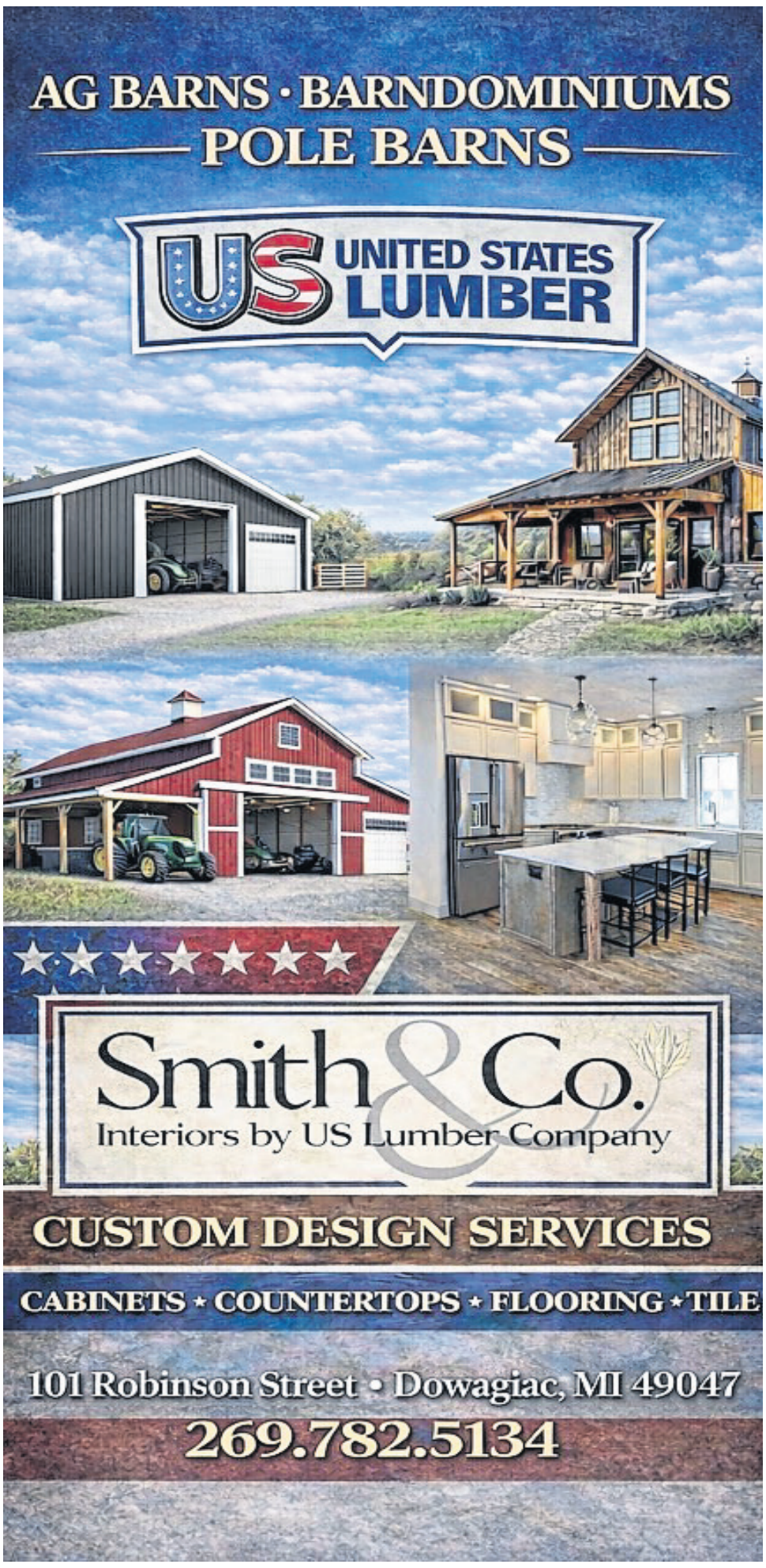
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Fund surpasses $70,000 for tornado relief

By PMG STAFF

ST. JOSEPH — In the three weeks since United Way of Southwest Michigan activated the Southwest Michigan Cares Fund in response to the March 6 tornado outbreak, donations surpassed $70,000 with more than 210 donors from across the region, and the nation, chipping in.

The fund was activated on March 7, one day after a powerful supercell storm tore through Cass, St. Joseph, and Branch counties, spawning tornadoes near Edwardsburg, Three Rivers, and Union City. Four people were killed, more than a dozen were injured, and countless homes, businesses, and buildings were damaged or destroyed. Cass County declared a local state of emergency, and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer activated the state's Emergency Operations Center to coordinate the response.

"When we turned on the Southwest Michigan Cares Fund, we knew our community would show up," said Anna Murphy, President and CEO of United Way of Southwest Michigan. "$70,000 in donations is real, meaningful help for these organizations on the ground helping people in their own communities to recover. We are grateful to every single person and organization that has given."

The Southwest Michigan Cares Fund was established to move dollars quickly and efficiently to organizations doing critical work on the ground during a crisis. One hundred percent of donations designated to the fund go directly to recovery efforts. United Way of Southwest Michigan has committed to directing funds raised for the tornado response to its sister United Way agencies in Branch County and St. Joseph County, which serve those directly impacted communities.

In Cass County, which falls within United Way of Southwest Michigan's service area, the organization is working closely with partners and organizations already operating on the front lines to determine where emergency funding will have the greatest impact.

Several corporate partners have already stepped up with significant contributions, including Meijer, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, Enbridge, Corewell Health, First Congregational Church UCC St. Joseph, Priority Health, Gun Lake Casino, and Invenergy. The fund remains open for individual and corporate donations at SouthwestMichiganCares.com.

"The road to recovery for these communities is a long one," Murphy added. "The outpouring of support we've seen tells us that Southwest Michigan doesn't leave its neighbors behind. We're going to keep working with our partners and sister United Ways to make sure every dollar reaches the people who need it most."

Senior Director of Organizational Sustainability Zack East said that every time the organization set a fundraising goal on the website, it would be cleared within days.

"I remember asking for donors to help us get to $25k, then $35k, then we quickly rose past $50k thanks to our corporate partners, and it's just been an incredible rise from there. We've reset the goal for $100,000 and if we can get there, that will be incredible to witness," East said. "I am never surprised by our community's willingness to chip in when neighbors need it."

Individuals and businesses wishing to donate may give online at SouthwestMichiganCares.com or send a check payable to United Way of Southwest Michigan with "Cares Fund" noted in the memo line to PO Box 288, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Donors may also designate their gift to a specific county. For information on corporate giving opportunities, contact Senior Director of Organizational Sustainability Zack East at cares.fund@uwsm.org or (269) 932-3226.

Those in need of assistance can get referrals to agencies providing essential needs and recovery services by dialing 2-1-1 or going to MI211.org.

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Officials concerned over spike in measles

Michigan up to 7 confirmed cases so far in 2026

By LOUISE WREGE
Paxton Media Group

BENTON TOWNSHIP — With Michigan having seven confirmed cases of measles so far this year, it is time for people to take precautions, said Sara Palmer, an epidemiologist with the Berrien County Health Department.

"It's in Michigan and it was acquired through travel to Florida," Palmer said after Wednesday's Berrien County Board of Health monthly meeting.

The seven cases were confirmed last month in Washtenaw County, with several locations in Wayne County considered to be sites where people could have been exposed to measles, according to the Michigan Measles Dashboard 2026 on the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website.

"We really want people to review their vaccination history to make sure they're protected before they start traveling," Palmer said. "If you're not sure about your vaccination status, talk to your primary care provider or talk to us."

She said a person can be contagious with measles for up to four days before they develop a rash.

"The problem with measles is it can linger in the air for up to two hours after a person was there, so you're not really going to know if you were exposed," Palmer said. "That's what makes it so highly contagious."

She said people who think they have measles should call the medical facility ahead of time so precautions can be made to make sure they don't spread the infection.

"You will be seen. It's just they'll take extra precautions to keep you and everybody else safe," Palmer said.

Common symptoms, according to MDHHS, include:

- High fever – may spike to over 104 degrees Fahrenheit
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes (conjunctivitis)
- Tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums and roof of the mouth (Koplik Spots)
- A rash that starts as flat red spots on the face at the hairline, then spreads to the trunk, arms and legs three to five days after symptoms begin. Small, raised bumps may also appear on top of the flat red spots.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, there have been 1,575 confirmed cases of measles in the United States as of March 26, with 32 states affected.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine are recommended by doctors as the best way to protect against measles.

The CDC reported in 92 percent of the measles cases this year, the infected person was not vaccinated or their vaccination status was unknown.

Four percent of the people with measles had one MMR dose, with another 4 percent having two MMR doses.

The CDC updates information on measles cases and outbreaks at noon every Thursday.

In 2025, there were 2,285 confirmed measles cases during the entire year, with 11 percent of the infected people being hospitalized and three deaths.

The highest number of cases reported before 2025 was in 2019, with 1,274 cases confirmed. There were 285 measles cases reported in 2024.

Palmer said measles is a serious illness with a high rate of complications, including hospitalization, pneumonia, encephalitis and death.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

FOOD

From page A1

- Broadway Christian Parish in South Bend
- Clay Church in South Bend
- Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County
- First United Methodist Church in South Bend
- MAC Albright in Mishawaka
- River Park Food Pantry in South Bend

"2026 marks the eleventh consecutive year that the Pokagon Band and its Four Winds Casinos has provided meals for the Easter holiday," said Matthew Wesaw, Tribal Council Chairman of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana. "This program would not be possible without the support of the Pokagon Tribal Council, Pokagon Citizens, our Four Winds Casino employees, and several community organizations. We hope this annual contribution makes a difference to the recipients and serves as inspiration for others to emulate."

Don Campbell / PMG

Volunteers help distribute boxes containing items for an Easter dinner on Thursday at the Benton Harbor Salvation Army.

Mary Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of Four Winds Casinos added, "Since the start of our holiday meal program we have delivered more than 20,000 meals to individuals and families to put food on the table for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are thankful for the generosity of the Pokagon Band Tribal Council as well as the partnership with all the organizations we have worked with over the years."

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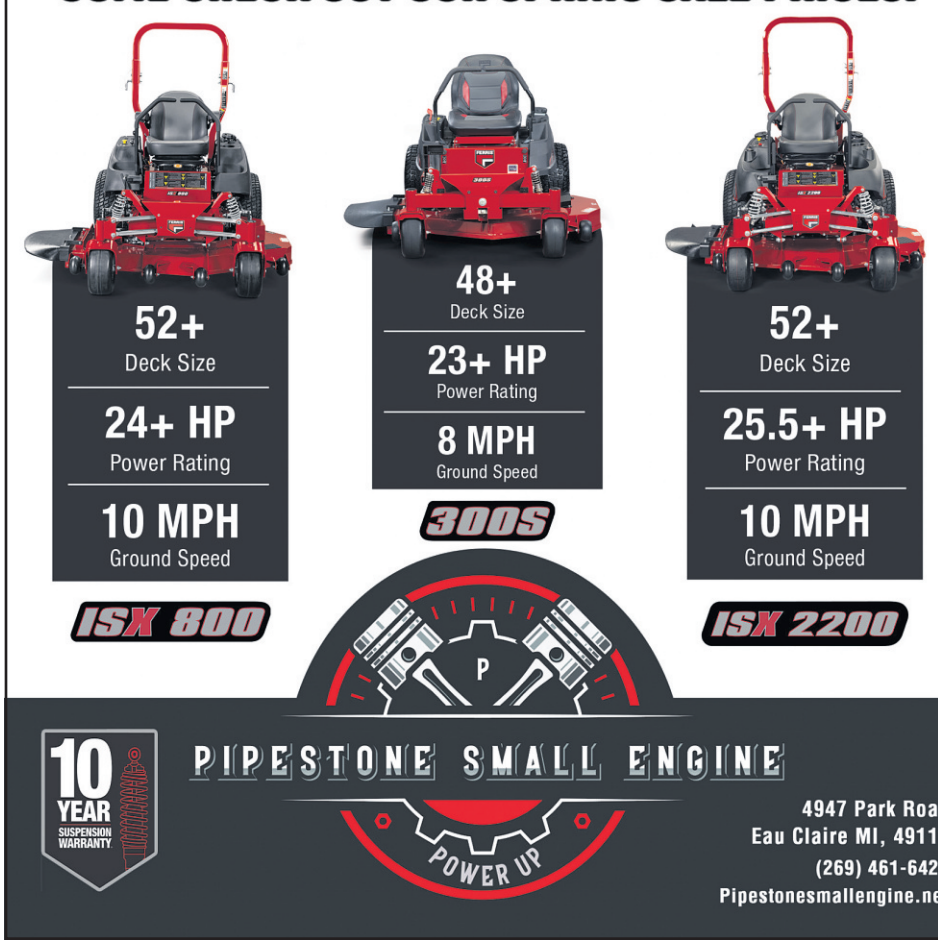
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Hidalgo named WBCA Defensive Player Of The Year, All-American

SUBMITTED

HIDALGO

PHOENIX — Notre Dame's Hannah Hidalgo has been named the WBCA Coaches' Defensive Player of the Year as well as a WBCA All-American as announced on Thursday.

Hidalgo became the second player in program history to be named to the WBCA All-America team three times in her career, joining former standout Skylar Diggins. Hidalgo is the first to earn the WBCA Defensive Player of the Year accolades.

The phenom has already been named the ACC Player of the Year, Naismith Defensive Player of the Year and ACC Defensive Player of the Year along with Naismith All-America, USBWA All-America and USA Today All-America First Teams.

The point guard averaged 25.3 points, 6.9 rebounds, 5.6 steals and 5.2 assists per game. Hidalgo is the only women's or men's player at the DI level since the 1999-00 season to average at least 25 points, five rebounds, five assists and five steals per game over an entire season.

Hidalgo set multiple NCAA steals records over the course of the season, including the single-season record with 202 during the 2025-26 campaign. She became the first women's or men's player to reach the 200-steal milestone in a season since steals became an official stat in 1988.

The Merchantville, New Jersey, native also set the record for most steals in a single NCAA Tournament with 29 over the course of four games. Hidalgo had back-to-back eight steal performances in wins over Fairfield and Ohio State before set 3ting the program record for steals in an NCAA Tournament game with 10 in the win over Vanderbilt in the Sweet Sixteen. Hidalgo then added three more against UConn in the Elite Eight.

See **HIDALGO**, page B2

SMC revitalizes Roadrunner Trails

By JOHN EBY
Southwestern Michigan College

Photos provided
Southwestern Michigan College Roadrunner Trails consist of five color-coded trails.

DOWAGIAC — In honor of springtime, even the new Southwestern Michigan College Roadrunner Trails' flexible standards spring back up like a Bozo Bop Bag if struck.

The trails upgrade announced last May is dedicated to former SMC Athletic Director Ron Gunn and was undertaken by Zac Sartori, his successor as cross country and track and field head coach for men and women.

"Ron did some amazing things in the '70s, '80s and '90s, including cutting these trails that we still use today," Sartori said. "Over the years, some of the trail markings have gotten beat down. One thing I've had in my heart that I've wanted to do since I got here, walked down those trails and got lost myself early on, is to remap and update the markers so any member of the public can get out there and walk these trails, feeling confident that they know where they're going."

There are five color-coded trails. Sartori awaits a shipment of green stickers to finish marking that trail.

"There are also a bunch of unmarked connect-betweens, which will be designated with black decals. The red trail runs all the way through (Riverside) cemetery and Rudolphi (Wildlife Refuge)," Sartori said. "The green trail and the blue trail are the two longer ones out there. The orange and yellow ones are shorter. If you stretched them out end to end, there are probably eight to nine miles that we manage."

Remarking took longer than expected with some very hot temperatures last summer, a few extreme weather incidents and a rough winter this year. Now that the trails are remarked, Sartori can turn attention to the Monday Night Running Club to develop digital maps.

"They'll come out with their All-Trails app and follow courses already laid out to develop maps for the view board you can scan with a QR code and follow on your phone. The technology's pretty amazing!"

When a call went out to pay tribute to Hall of Fame Coach Gunn, 219 individuals contributed.

Thom Janssen presented Sartori with a $5,429.89 check for the SMC Foundation.

Thom Janssen presented Zac Sartori with a $5,429.89 check for the SMC Foundation.

"This underscores the strong support of SMC Athletics, the importance of preserving and enhancing our trails and the lasting impact of Coach Ron Gunn's legacy," Manager of Development and Executive Director of the SMC Foundation Board Emily Schrock said.

The more than 50-year-old Monday Night Running Club similarly honored Gunn with some park benches they observed at Potato Creek State Park.

One of four composite benches (the other three are at Potato Creek, southwest of South Bend, Ind., Dr. T.K. Lawless and Love Creek county parks) has been placed at the trailhead behind the Charles O. Zollar Building on SMC's Dowagiac campus.

"Some of us still get together," Janssen said. "Not to run, but we still can eat."

"I had talked with Thom Janssen and a few other people who approached me from the Monday Night Running Club and Ron's Cairn Stone Adventure Tours about building a bridge over that gorge carved out by rain on the roller-coaster hills trail. But because it's unstable, when I reached out about engineering costs, it was prohibitive," Sartori said.

"I told them about my idea to improve the trail markings, so they jumped on board with that. Their check covered all the markings and posts. It's really cool that it's fully funded by the community.

"Steve's Run does about three miles on the trails," so if someone is injured in the woods, emergency responders can be provided with more precise locations.

See **TRAILS**, page B2

BASKETBALL

Izzo says he had serious talks last year about coaching Phoenix Suns

EAST LANSING (AP) — Michigan State's Tom Izzo said he considered coaching the Phoenix Suns after discussing the possibility last year with one of his former players, Mat Ishbia, who owns the NBA team.

"We talked seriously about it," Izzo said Wednesday on "The Dan Patrick Show," during a virtual interview from his office on campus.

The 71-year-old Hall of Fame coach chose to lead the Spartans for a 31st season and extended his record of reaching 28 consecutive NCAA Tournaments. They were eliminated by Connecticut in the Sweet 16.

Izzo has turned down multiple opportunities to coach in the NBA, including with Cleveland and Atlanta. Izzo said last week that Huskies coach Dan Hurley asked him for advice after the Los Angeles Lakers offered him a $70 million, six-year contract in 2024.

Ishiba, a walk-on guard on Izzo's national championship team in 2000, hired former Michigan State video coordinator Jordan Ott to coach the Suns this season. Ishiba also hired a former Spartans assistant, Brian Gregory, to be the team's general manager and gave former teammate Mateen Cleaves a job in player development.

Phoenix is in a position to make the playoffs with Ott on the bench after it was 10 games under .500 under coach Mike Budenholzer in his only season with the franchise.

AP Photo / Jeffrey T. Barnes
Michigan State head coach Tom Izzo reacts during the second half against Louisville in the second round of the NCAA college basketball tournament on March 21 in Buffalo, N.Y.

Big men, bigger lineups: How length, size got teams to the Final Four

By AARON BEARD
AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Tarris Reed Jr. sat at his locker Thursday, fielding questions about his run as the interior-scoring, rebound-snagging force in UConn's latest Final Four push.

Yet he wasn't the main attraction.

That's because across the room, an even bigger gaggle of reporters waited for freshman guard Braylon Mullins – the Indiana kid who hit an all-timer of a shot to send the Huskies back to the sport's biggest stage – to return for his own round of interviews.

"Guards are the ones that hit the big shots," Reed said Thursday when asked about big men getting their due, adding with a grin: "We just do our job, we do the dirty work – and we're used to doing it our whole life so we have fun doing it."

Maybe so, but there's no minimalizing the impact of size this week in Indianapolis.

See **BIGS**, page B2

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Girls soccer

March 25 results

Bridgman 2, Brandywine 0

Goals — Kandin Shuler, Olivia Johnson.

Assists – Shuler, Abby Rydwelski.

Shots on goal – Bridgman 6, Brandywine 2.

Saves – Abby Rydwelski (Brid) 2.

Halftime – Bridgman 1-0.

Records – Bridgman 2-0.

Softball

March 25 results

DOWAGIAC 6, ST. JOSEPH 4

Dowagiac	**210**	**011**	**1**	**—**	**6**	**7 0**
St. Joseph	**010**	**030**	**0**	**—**	**4**	**6 1**

WP – B. Campbell 12k. LP – T. Spitale 6k. Top hitters – Dowagiac: B. Behnke 1b, 2b, 2 RBI; E. Henry 2 1b; C. Hess 2b, RBI. St. Joseph: H. Spitale 2b; T. Spitale 1b, 2b, RBI; L. Alexander 1b, RBI.

TRAILS

From page B1

Janssen has said of Gunn's style, "When you accomplish the goal at the end, such as hiking in and out of the Grand Canyon, you feel like you won a national championship," Janssen said. "All of your hard work, blood, sweat and tears, pay off. His super power is motivating and bringing people together. He doesn't whip you to make you do that, he makes you think you can do something you thought was impossible. You get out there and discover you can do a lot more than you thought you could.

"We've been going on hiking tours with Cairn Stone Adventure Tours since 2007. When you pack 50 people on a bus for two weeks, that's usually not a pleasant experience. But the camaraderie – he brings out the best in people – gives you hope that maybe things could be better.

"We wanted to do something to let Coach Gunn know how much we appreciate what he has done to change each of our lives and there are literally hundreds of us," from retired judge Susan Dobrich to two-time national cross-country champion Tom Ellspermann.

Interim President Brent Brewer described the outpouring as honoring "the legacy of someone who built the foundation of our running community. Coach Gunn's impact on SMC and the sport of running in our region is immeasurable. His dedication, vision and passion shaped not only the athletic program, but entire generations of athletes."

HIDALGO

From page B1

The junior turned in many incredible performances this season while breaking records along the way. Hidalgo set the all-time record for steals in a game and the program's single-game scoring record against Akron, finishing with 44 points and 16 rebounds.

Arguably even more impressive, Hidalgo recorded just the second 30-point triple double in women's NCAA Tournament history in the Sweet Sixteen win over Vanderbilt, finishing with 31 points, 11 rebounds, 10 steals and seven assists.

She has the career program scoring records for 30-point games (19), 20-point games (80) and consecutive games in double figures (103).

Hidalgo broke the program's record for career steals (481) and season steals (202). The standout became the fastest player in ACC and program history to reach 2,000 career points, accomplishing the feat in 86 games.

Hidalgo played her best down the final stretch of the season, scoring 20 or more points in each of her last 11 games of the season, averaging 26.6 points, 8.8 rebounds, 6.0 steals and 5.9 assists per game.

It has been 50 years since Indiana went undefeated

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

Mike Marot / AP

Members of the Indiana Hoosiers 1975-76 national championship team, the last undefeated men's Division I team to win the championship, gather for a reunion before a basketball game against Oregon on Feb. 9 in Bloomington, Ind.

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Bob Knight's halftime speech on March 29, 1976, was an instant classic.

Indiana's players remember walking into the locker room, down 35-29 to a Michigan team they'd already beaten twice in close games earlier that season with starting guard Bobby Wilkerson ruled out because of an injury. That's when the late Hall of Fame coach arrived and issued the challenge that fueled the comeback and made history.

Indiana responded with one of the most dominant halves in NCAA Tournament history, outscoring the Wolverines 57-33 to rally for an 86-68 victory in Philadelphia. It gave the Hoosiers their third national championship, Knight the first of his three crowns and it remains the last perfect season in Division I men's basketball 50 years later.

"The greatest game I remember," starting forward Tom Abernethy recalled during the team's February reunion. "We had 20 minutes to make history. It could have been the best half of basketball I've ever witnessed. The way he (Quinn Buckner) played, (Kent Benson) played unbelievably well in that second half, Scott (May), those three guys they were not going to be held back."

A half-century later, much to the surprise of the Hoosiers players who used The General's words to complete a two-year mission, they're still the last perfect team standing.

Special combination

There were a number of undefeated champions before these Hoosiers and there have been close calls since, including Indiana State (31-1 in 1978-79), UNLV (34-1 in 1990-91), Wichita State (35-1 in 2013-14) and Kentucky's 38-0 start in 2014-15 befoe losing to Wisconsin in the Final Four.

The 1975-76 Hoosiers didn't just set the record for the most wins (32) by an undefeated national champion that season, they dominated opponents.

Knight's lineup featured six future NBA players, four of whom were top 11 picks, two All-Americans, the Associated Press National Player of the Year and one player, Buckner, who also was a 14th-round draft pick of the NFL's Washington Redskins.

They shot nearly 52 percent from the field, made nearly 200 more baskets than their foes, had 655 assists compared to 325 for opponents, posted an averaged victory margin of 17.3 points and won a record 37 consecutive Big Ten games over three years.

Three different organizations selected the team as the greatest March Madness squad in the event's first 75 years, though many longtime Hoosiers fans don't even think that was the school's top team of the decade.

One year earlier, the Indiana roster had eight future NBA players, outscored opponents by nearly 23 points per game and won their first 31 contests before falling 92-90 in the Elite Eight to Kentucky when May tried to play with a cast on his broken left arm. He finished with two points in seven minutes against a rival Indiana had routed 98-74 in December.

But as those players sat in that stunned locker room in March 1975, they didn't need Knight's words to console them. They were determined not to let it happen again.

"I'll tell you how good that team was," Buckner said. "Coach Knight asked Scott and I when we were juniors, 'Do you want to play UCLA in St. Louis?' This is after we lost the Kentucky game, so we had our own blemishes to deal with and we immediately said yes. Then we go out there and pound them. They came back and one individual, I don't want to mention his name, said that was a 'practice game.'"

Taking on the best

Indiana didn't back down from anybody that season, even after Benson suffered a serious wrist injury in win No. 14. Benson continued to play, taping his wrist for each game and wearing a cast when he wasn't playing.

A challenging schedule tested the Hoosiers' mettle, too.

After blasting UCLA 84-64 in the season opener, they beat Kentucky in overtime at Louisville. Then they had to win three games in three days in Madison Square Garden, all against New York City schools. Then came the injury and a handful of close calls in conference play before a brutal tournament pairing that required five straight wins over teams ranked in the top 17.

The run began with a 90-70 victory in a rematch with No. 17 St. John's. That was followed by a 74-69 victory over No. 6 Alabama and a 65-56 victory over No. 2 Marquette. Then came the emotional rematch with No. 5 UCLA in Philadelphia.

"I don't normally look at games with revenge," Buckner said, referring to the practice game comment. "But with them after that statement and playing them in the Final Four, I wanted to bury them."

Indiana didn't disappoint, walking away with a 65-51 victory before closing it out by beating No. 9 Michigan for the third time.

Golden anniversary

The team will be honored before Monday night's national championship game.

Knight long ago explained to his players the significance of what they had done. But with the Olympics and pro careers beckoning, the players admittedly didn't fully comprehend what Knight meant.

It finally hit as they watched other teams try and fail to match what they did decades ago, including undefeated Gonzaga losing the national title game to Baylor in 2021.

Still, the Hoosiers have never celebrated holding on to the title as college basketball' last perfect team.

"The Miami Dolphins thing does not happen where they pop the champagne because they, you know, were the last undefeated team. We don't do that," Buckner said.

It's not that they don't appreciate their moment in the spotlight each March. It's just that they'd embrace welcoming another team to the club, which numbers only seven teams and just four schools (San Francisco in 1956, North Carolina in 1957 and UCLA in 1964, '67 and 1972-73 are the others).

Strangely, the drought has gone on so long that Buckner, an Indiana board of trustee member, has even seen the long-suffering Hoosiers football team go 16-0 and win a national championship before seeing another men's team post a perfect season. With no end in sight, it's made Knight's words from a half-century ago feel relevant again.

"Coach (Knight) said at the conclusion of the '76 season, 'Fans should take a good look at the group because you'll never see another group like it again,'" Buckner said. "All of us were young enough, stupid enough to not know what that meant. But obviously, that's been the case."

BIGS

From page B1

Not with the Final Four boasting its biggest quartet of teams going back roughly two decades, starting with guys such as Reed, Michigan's Aday Mara, Arizona's Koa Peat and Illinois' 7-foot Ivisic twins as anchors to lineups with size radiating all the way out to the perimeter.

Length, height and bulk

The average height of the Final Four teams is nearly 79.1 inches, or roughly 6 feet 6, according to KenPom's analytics site. That edges last year's average of nearly 78.3 inches for the biggest of any Final Four going back to the start of KenPom's data in 2007.

Illinois (28-8) is Division I's tallest team with an average roster height of nearly 6-7 (80 inches), while Arizona (36-2) is seventh at nearly 6-6 (79 inches). Michigan (35-3) and UConn (33-5) are in the top 30 nationally with nearly identical averages slightly behind the Wildcats.

Consider it a sign of the premium each team put on building a roster to overwhelm teams inside, on the glass and with game-altering length spanning the gaps between.

That kind of size, strength and wingspan creates trouble cascading through the matchups. ACC Network analyst Luke Hancock said teams are also thriving by finding power forwards and centers capable of stepping outside to stretch defenses further and create space, eliminating the ability for a defense to simply collapse on a lone big man.

"Guards still win in March," said Hancock, the most outstanding player of the 2013 Final Four in Louisville's later-vacated title run. "But I think these guys have become almost like a necessary component. If you want to win championships, you need a big 4 and a monster 5."

Nam Y. Huh / AP

Michigan's Aday Mara (15) shoots over Alabama's Aiden Sherrell (22) during the first half in the Sweet 16 on March 27 in Chicago.

And it's manifesting in several ways as March Madness reaches its final act.

Defensive edge

The Illini have had the best defensive tournament efficiency of the Final Four teams while dominating the glass to complete those stops. Their roster includes an influx of European talent, including Tomislav (7-1) and Zvonimir Ivisic (7-2), as well as 6-9 forward David Mirkovic from Montenegro.

The Illini also brings 6-9, 235-pound graduate Ben Humrichous off the bench, while the outlier in the big lineup is 6-2 senior guard Kylan Boswell as a strong backcourt defender.

The South Region champion has allowed .976 points per possession in the NCAA Tournament to lead the remaining four teams. Throw in the fact that Illinois is outrebounding opponents by 16.3 per game, and it's been a perfectly timed boost to an already elite offense with those forwards and centers capable of hitting from behind the arc, too.

"Playing in the summer, you could tell it's a little bit harder to do some things just because you've got Z at the rim, who's 7-foot-2 and a great shot blocker," 6-6 forward Jake Davis said. "You got Tommy down there. So anybody you're going up against in practice is super tall. ... We've just got a bunch of length everywhere. And you could tell early on that we could cause problems for other teams."

Reed's presence

The Illini will be tested against Reed, a 6-foot-11, 265-pound senior whose scoring (21.8) and rebounding (13.5) averages in the tournament are the best of any player still standing.

That included opening the tournament with a video game-type stat line of 31 points and 27 rebounds against Furman, making him the first player with 30-plus points and 25-plus rebounds in an NCAA Tournament game since Houston's Elvin Hayes did it twice in 1968.

He's coming off a 26-point showing in the comeback from 19 down to stun Duke in the Elite Eight.

"He's a monster," said UConn senior Alex Karaban, who was part of the Huskies' 2023 and 2024 title winners. "He's been so dominant. He's really playing like the most dominant player in college basketball right now."

Wearing them down

When it comes to the No. 1 seeds, the Wolverines have hummed with 90-plus points in four tournament wins. The Wildcats have been right behind in offensive efficiency despite being shooting fewer 3-pointers than just about every other Division I team all season.

Their meeting Saturday matches strengths.

Michigan has used the 7-3, 255-pound Mara to protect the paint, flanked by a pair of versatile 6-9 forwards in Associated Press first-team All-American Yaxel Lendeborg (240 pounds) and Morez Johnson Jr. (250).

"Our size definitely makes it tougher for smaller guards," Lendeborg said. "Because we're so versatile ... we can switch and guard point guards, make their life a little harder. And you know, we're all strong bodies too. So we try to wear down teams.

"And then, toward the end of the game, that's when we usually make our runs when we need it."

Michigan will be tested against the Wildcats with 7-2 center Motiejus Krivas (10.4 points, 8.2 rebounds) and Peat, a 6-8, 235-pound freshman considered a strong NBA prospect.

"If you don't have the big to defend other bigs, you can't compete at this level in my opinion," Hancock said.

"How do you make it so you're really tough to guard and you have an advantage? It's the 4-men in this Final Four who are just so talented and the diversity of their skill sets – they can do so many things. That is the ultimate to me."

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ONTWA TOWNSHIP CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that the Ontwa Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on May 6, 2026, at 6:00 pm., at the Ontwa Township Hall located at 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112, to receive public comments on a request for a special land use permit.

Matthew Kirkwood, on behalf of Jagmeet Singh, has submitted applications for special land use approval and final site plan review to establish a gas station at 26912 Redfield Road. The property is within the C-2 General Commercial zoning district, where gas stations are permitted if approved as a special land use by the Planning Commission.

Copies of the application materials and the Township's zoning ordinances are available for public viewing during regular business hours at the Township Hall, 26225 US 12, Edwardsburg, MI 49112, or on the Township website: www.ontwatwp.org.

Written comments will be received from any interested persons by the Ontwa Township Clerk at the Ontwa Township Hall during regular business hours and may be further received by the Planning Commission during the public hearing. Oral comments will be taken during the hearing.

If you are planning to attend this hearing and are handicapped, requiring any special assistance, please notify the Township Clerk by calling (269) 663-2347 as soon as possible.

Tina VanBelle
Ontwa Township Clerk

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on May 06, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Cassandra Miller and Jeffrey Starr Jr Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.("MERS"),solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: December 5, 2023 Recorded on December 11, 2023, Liber 1240, on Page 1243, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixteen and 04/100 Dollars ($119,716.04) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: Lot 142 in McOmber`s Third Addition to the Village (now City) of Dowagiac, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber W of Deeds, Page 330, Cass County Records. Commonly known as 421 W Railroad St, Dowagiac, MI 49047 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NewRez LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1589313 (04-04)(04-25)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on APRIL 29, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Bernice L. Crawford, a single woman, to The CIT Group/Sales Financing, Inc., a Delaware Corporation, Mortgagee, dated November 9, 1998 and recorded November 12, 1998 in Liber 681, Page 1291 Cass County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, for Lehman ABS Manufactured Housing Contract Senior/Subordinate Asset-Backed Certificate Trust, Series 2001-B, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred Six and 50/100 Dollars ($18,306.50).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Cass County, Michigan at 10:00 AM on APRIL 29, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Calvin, Cass County Michigan, and are described as:
The East half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, excepting therefrom, the South 1105.5 feet thereof. Also excepting therefrom, the North 11.65 5/8 chains thereof.Also excepting therefrom, Beginning 6.65 5/8 chains South of the Northeast corner of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West; thence South 20 rods; thence West 80 rods; thence North 20 rods; thence East 80 rods to the point of beginning.Also excepting therefrom, The North four (4) Rods of the south Fifty-one (51) Rods of the East half of the Northeast quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, Calvin Township, Cass County, Michigan.Also excepting therefrom, The North ten (10) Rods of the south forty-seven (47) Rods of the East half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, Calvin Township, Cass County, Michigan.Also excepting therefrom, Commencing 51 Rods North of the Southwest corner of the East half of the Northeast quarter; thence North 264 feet; thence East to the Section Line; thence South 264 feet; thence West to the point of beginning. Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West.Also excepting therefrom, Part of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 13, Town 7 South, Range 14 West, described as: From the Northeast corner of said Section 13, measure North 89 degrees 25'20" West, along the North line of said Section, 1328.03 feet to the Northwest corner of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of said Section; thence South along the East Eighth line of said Section, 769.32 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence South 89 degrees 25'20" East, 182.00 feet; thence South 125.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 25'20" West, 182.00 feet to the East Eighth line of said Section; thence North along the Eighth line, 125.00 feet to the point of beginning.Also excepting therefrom pursuant to the partial release recorded in Liber 1029, Page 832, FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 13, TOWN 7 SOUTH, RANGE 14 WEST, MEASURE N88 DEGREES 53'06"W, ALONG THE NORTH SECTION LINE, 1327.37 FEET TO THE EAST EIGHTH LINE OF SAID SECTION; THENCE MEASURE S00 DEGREES 50' 15W, ALONG SAID LINE, 894.32 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE S88 DEGREES 53'10"E (PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS S89 DEGREES 25'20"E) 182.00 FEET; THENCE N00 DEGREES 50 15 E (PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS NORTH) 125.00 FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH 23.3125 ACRES OF THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE S88 DEGREES 53' 10" E ALONG LINE, 466.56 FEET; THENCE S00 DEGREES 50'15" W, PARALLEL WITH THE EAST EIGHTH LINE, 371.42 FEET; THENCE N88 DEGREES 53'10" W 648.56 FEET TO THE EAST EIGHTH LINE; THENCE N00 DEGREES 50'15"E, ALONG SAID LINE, 246.42 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.
64277 Union Rd, Vandalia, Michigan 49095
The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: March 28, 2026
File No. 26-002985
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400 (03-28)(04-18)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - CASS COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on May 06, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Lynn Marie Clark, a single woman Original Mortgagee: The Huntington National Bank, successor by merger to FMB Community Bank Date of mortgage: June 30, 1995 Recorded on July 20, 1995, Liber 593, on Page 185, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on July 21, 1998 in Liber 669, on Page 782 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Thousand Eighteen and 72/100 Dollars ($2,018.72) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: COMMENCING ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION FOUR, TOWNSHIP SEVEN SOUTH OF RANGE SIXTEEN WEST, AT A POINT 1372 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE WEST 116.2 FEET; THENCE NORTH AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 375 FEET; THENCE EAST 116.2 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 375 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING Commonly known as 2743 White St, Niles, MI 49120 The redemption period will be 12 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1588637 (03-28)(04-18)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on April 29, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Ray Bloomer, an unmarried man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Date of Mortgage: November 22, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 7, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $98,790.92
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Wayne, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing North 1127.28 feet from the Southeast corner of the North Three Quarters of the East Half of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 22, Township 5 South, Range 15 West; thence West 436.14 feet; thence South 277.28 feet; thence East 436.14 feet; thence North 277.28 feet to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 53702 Glenwood Rd, Dowagiac, MI 49047-7423
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 28, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515 1588221 (03-28)(04-18)

CITY OF DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE NO.: 2026-01

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 22.5 (C) (6), MAP OF CHAPTER 22, CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS, OF THE DOWAGIAC CITY CODE BY AMENDMENT OF THE ZONING MAP

THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC ORDAINS:

Section 1: That Section 22.5 (C) (6) of Chapter 22, of the Dowagiac Zoning Code be is hereby amended by changing the official zoning map as follows:

Designate as "Planned Unit Development," certain described property in the City of Dowagiac, County of Cass, State of Michigan, more specifically described here to:

Parcel Number 14-160-200-914-00, legally described as follows:

LOTS NUMBERED 19, 20, 21 AND 23, MARY E. WHITNEY'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 11, CASS COUNTY RECORDS, EXCEPTING THREFROM THE NORTH 62 1/2 FEET OF SAID LOT 23, NOT BEING USED FOR ROAD PURPOSES. ALSO, A PIECE OF LAND BOUNDED ON THE NORTH BY WEST TELEGRAPH STREET, ON THE EAST BY PARSONAGE STREET, ON TEH SOUTH BY WEST STREET, AND ON THE WEST BY THE EAST LINE OF LOT 23, MARY E. WHITNEY'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC, BEING A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 36, TOWN 5 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST, EXCEPTING THEREFROM, THAT PART OF LOT 21, MARY E. WHITNEY'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF DOWAGIAC, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 21 OF SAID ADDITION; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE EAST LINE OF LOWE STREET OF SAID ADDITION, 24.0 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 21; THENCE WEST 132.0 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL EASEMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD, OR OTHERWISE.

Section 2: That this ordinance shall take full force and effect immediately upon its publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the City of Dowagiac.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN,

THIS 23rd DAY OF March 2026.

CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF DOWAGIAC, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

By: _____
Patrick Bakeman, Mayor

Attested by:

_____
Patty Patano, City Clerk

AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement – Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM. on April 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by James Snyder and Shella Ann Havener of Cass County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) dated the 28th day of May, 2019, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Cass and State of Michigan, on the 3rd day of July, 2019, Book 1157, Page 24, Instrument No. 154453 of the Cass County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $96,044.48 plus accrued interest at 5.00000% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Town of Howard, in the County of Cass and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: Lot 50 Yankee Heights, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 153, Cass County Records Commonly known as: 2550 Juniper Road, Niles, MI 49120 Tax ID: 1402022005000 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption. Dated: March 14, 2026, By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email: bhoen@weltman.com WWR#: 22-000663-1 (03-14)(04-04)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE (ALL COUNTIES) AS A DEBT COLLECTOR, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement – Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM a.m./p.m. on April 29, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a certain mortgage made by Robert L Saxton of Cass County, Michigan, Mortgagor to Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) dated the 19th day of September, 2013, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, for the County of Cass and State of Michigan, on the 11th day of October, 2013, Liber 1067, Page 1885, of the Cass County Records on which mortgage there is claimed to be due, at the date of this notice, for principal of $31,137.87 plus accrued interest at 7.99000% percent per annum. Which said premises are described as follows: All that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of LaGrange, in the County of Cass and State of Michigan and described as follows to wit: THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT 14 AND THE WEST HALF OF LOT 15, EXCEPT THE SOUTH 1 ROD, BLOCK 1 SOUTH, RANGE 3 EAST, ORIGINAL PLAT, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF. ALSO THE WEST ONE-HALF OF LOT NUMBER 16; AND 1 ROD OFF THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE WEST ONE-HALF OF LOT NUMBER 15; ALL IN BLOCK 1 SOUTH, RANGE 3 EAST, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREO Commonly known as: 311 East Jefferson Street, Cassopolis, MI 49031 Tax ID: 14-041-115-015-00 If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale the borrower, pursuant to MCLA 600.3278 will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exception. Dated: March 28, 2026 By: Benjamin N. Hoen #P-81415 Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., L.P.A. 5990 West Creek Road, Suite 200 Independence, OH 44131 Telephone: 216-739-5100 Fax: 216-363-4034 Email:bhoen@weltman.com WWR#: 26-000111-1 (03-28)(04-18)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on May 20, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE – Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by David Wyatt, an unmarried man, original mortgagor, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems as Nominee for Milend, Inc, dated March 8, 2024, and recorded in Liber 1243 Page 481 in CASS County records, Michigan, and assigned to Planet Home Lending, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on July 22, 2025 in Liber 1263, Page 91, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Four Thousand Six-Hundred Fifty-One and 63/100 dollars ($194,651.63). Said premises are situated in the Township of Jefferson, County of Cass, State of Michigan to wit: Part of the North half of the Northeast quarter of Section 31, Township 7 South, Range 15 West, Jefferson Township, Cass County, Michigan, described as: From the North quarter corner of said Section 31, measure South 89 degrees 47 minutes 45 seconds East, along the North line of said Section 1326.00 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence South 89 degrees 47 minutes 45 seconds East, along said North line, 156.50 feet; thence South 0 degrees 22 minutes 35 seconds East, 454.77 feet; thence North 89 degrees 55 minutes 15 seconds West, 156.50 feet; thence North 0 degrees 22 minutes 35 seconds West, 455.11 feet to the point of beginning. Commonly known as: 27134 Deerfield Lane, Edwardsburg, Michigan 49112 Parcel No.: 14-030-031-409-95 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: April 4, 2026 For more information, please call: (513) 444-4100 Sottile and Barile PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 394 Wards Corner Boulevard, Suite 180 Loveland, OH 45140 File MF2510005 - Wyatt, David (FHA) - DA (04-04)(04-25)

0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUN SHOW
IN ROCHESTER, IN
Saturday, April 11th
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST
Fulton County
Historical Museum
37 East 375 North
4 miles north of Rochester
on US 31
Admission $4
574-936-4431

0500 MERCHANDISE

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0700 REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

2 PLOTS
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$2,100 Call 352-406-9575

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE 43RD CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF CASS

Case No:
2026-0000000006-CZ
Hon. MARK HERMAN

TIMOTHY GRIGALANZ,
Plaintiff,
V.
PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC, KENNETH ALAN STRICKLAND,
Defendants.

ATTENTION: KENNETH ALAN STRICKLAND
STATE OF MICHIGAN, 43RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, CASS COUNTY. CASE NO. 2026-0000000006-CZ. A civil action has been filed against you, Kenneth Alan Strickland, by Plaintiff, Timothy Grigalanz The nature of the proceeding is a lawsuit seeking damages and equitable relief related to a real estate transaction and mortgage foreclosure, alleging fraud, procedural defects, and other claims.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that you are required to answer the complaint or take other action permitted by law within **21 DAYS** after the last date of publication of this notice, If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this Court.
Plaintiff: Timothy Grigalanz 70335 Martin Rd Edwardsburg, MI 49112.
IT IS SO ORDERED.
Dated: 03/23/2026
/s/ HON. MARK HERMAN (P34735) 43rd Circuit Court Judge

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Cass COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2025-241-DE
Hon. Carol M. Bealor

Court address Court telephone no.
60296 M-62, Suite 10,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
269-445-4454

Estate of: Robert Eugene Riley, deceased
Date of birth:* 08/22/1943

TO ALL CREDITORS:**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Robert Eugene Riley, died 03/22/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Tricia Riley and/or Rodney Riley, personal representative, or to both the probate court 60296 M-62, Suite 10, Cassopolis, MI 49031 at and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 03/16/2026

Laura E. Volkmann P71882
Attorney name Bar no.
530 Venture Park Drive
Address
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
City, state, zip
269-459-1432
Telephone no.

Tricia Riley / Rodney Riley
Personal representative(s)
33535 Frost St./ 33720 Frost St.
Address
Dowagiac, MI 49047
City, state, zip
269-783-6370
Telephone no.

0900 LEGALS

To all interested persons, including, Take Notice: **The Contents of a 5x10 Storage Unit #23, located at Diamond Lake Self Storage, 2295 Diamond Cove Rd, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031**, will be sold via online auction, beginning **April 3, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. through April 17, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.**, on storagetreasures.com. Items to be sold will have pictures posted on Storagetreasures.com

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Howard Charter Township Cass County, Michigan
NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING
TO: RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF HOWARD CHARTER TOWNSHIP AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held during a regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals of Howard Charter Township, Cass County, Michigan on April 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township office, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, Michigan to consider the application by Shawn and Alison Stevens for a variance request, at the following location, to construct an accessory structure within the front yard.

Owner of Record: Shawn C & Alison S Stevens
Parcel Number: 14-020-003-012-21
Parcel Address: 1893 Allen St, Niles MI 49120

Parcel Description: 27B COM N01DEG47' 35" E 317.45' & N38DEG02'55" E 94.04' FRM W ¼ COR SEC 3 TH N38DEG02'55" E 326.03' TH S89DEG02'15" E 748' TH NO1DEG32'53" E 146.32' TH S88DEG46'10" E 302.45' TH SO1DEG20'26" W 410.69' TH N88DEG46'04" W 1245.8' TO BEG. T07S R16W SEC 3 7.94 A
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT you are invited to attend the hearing and to present your opinions or position relative to the subject of this hearing. If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may send a letter stating your opinions or position to: Howard Charter Township, 1345 Barron Lake Road, Niles, MI 49120, Attn: Zoning Administrator.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT the application describing the action or relief being sought and the Township Zoning Ordinance #192 is available for public inspection, at the Township Office on regular business days during regular business hours.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT the Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aid and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five (5) days' notice to the Howard Charter Township Clerk of the need for the same. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township by email at depclerk@howardtwp.org, in writing, or by calling the Clerk at the Township office at the address and/or phone number provided below.

Published: 4/4/2026
Linda McGregor, Zoning Administrator
1345 Barron Lake Rd, Niles, Michigan 49120 (269) 684-0072, opt. 3

RESERVE THIS SPACE TODAY!

CITY OF DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO.: 2026-01
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN, ZONING ORDINANCE TO PROMOTE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND PUBLIC WELFARE BY REGULATING SOUNDS OF A VOLUME THAT ARE A NUISANCE AND OTHERWISE OFFENSIVE OR DISRUPTIVE TO THE PUBLIC PEACE AND PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS AS A MUNICIPAL CIVIL INFRACTION.
RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the City of Dowagiac, City Council (the "City Council") desires to preserve, protect, and promote the public health, safety, welfare, peace, comfort, and quiet of the community by defining and controlling noise disturbance and noise pollution which may otherwise intrude upon or destroy the peace, tranquility, and calm of the City of Dowagiac;

WHEREAS, the City of Dowagiac, Michigan (hereinafter the "City"), is vested with and possess all the powers, functions, privileges, and immunities, expressed or implied, to which cities are entitled under, and in the spirit of, the laws of the State of Michigan including the passing of municipal ordinances pursuant to the Home Rule City Act, P.A. 279 of 1909 (Mich. Comp. Laws 117.1, *et seq.*), as amended, and MCL 81.1c;

WHEREAS, an incorporated city is granted statutory authority pass ordinances relating to noise and disturbance, to prevent injury or annoyance from anything dangerous, offense, or unhealthy, and to prevent and abate nuisances, MCL 91.1;

WHEREAS, the regulation of noise and disruption of public peace is a recognized and established Police Power,

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that varying land use in separate areas of the City require individualized regulations, and

WHEREAS, the City of Dowagiac Zoning Ordinance (the "Zoning Ordinance") already establishes specific rules and regulations regarding land use within the City based on specified zones, and the City Council desires to utilize the City's already specified zones regarding the regulation of sound and noise,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN, THAT:

The City of Dowagiac Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended to add Chapter 2, "GENERAL PROVISIONS," Section 2.27 – REGULATION OF SOUND AND NOISE.

SECTION 2.27-A: DEFINITIONS

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used within this Section 2.27, shall have the meanings ascribed herein.

1. **"A-Weighted Sound Level"** means the Sound Pressure Level in Decibels as measured on a Sound Level Meter using the A-Weighted Network. The Sound Pressure Level so read is designated dB(A) or dBA.
2. **"Commercial Area"** means property used for purposes other than residential or industrial regardless of whether the property has a commercial zoning designation, specifically land within the City of Dowagiac zoned C-1, C-2, and C-3 in accordance with the Zoning Districts established under Chapter 3 of the Zoning Ordinance.
3. **"Decibel"** means a unit of Sound Pressure Level on a logarithmic scale measured relative to the threshold of audible sound by the human ear, in compliance with the American National Standards Institute Standard S1.1-1960, or the successor thereto.
4. **"Decibels on the A-Weighted Network or dBA"** means Decibels measured on the A-Weighted Network of a Sound Level Meter as specified in the American National Standards Institute Standard S14-1971, or the successor thereto.
5. **"Industrial Area"** means property used for industrial purposes, specifically land within the City of Dowagiac zoned I-1, I-2, and I-3 in accordance with the Zoning Districts established under Chapter 3 of the Zoning Ordinance.
6. **"Person"** means any owner, lessee or occupant of property, including any individual, corporation, business or other entity; "Person" also means any individual in any public place or any private place open to the general public.
7. **"Property Line"** means the imaginary line which represents the legal limits of property (including an apartment, condominium, dwelling unit, or public property) owned, leased, or otherwise occupied by a Person, including the legal limits of public property on which a person is present. In cases involving sound from an activity on a Public Right-Of-Way, the Property Line shall be the nearest boundary of the Public Right-Of-Way.
8. **"Motor Vehicle"** means every vehicle which is self-propelled whether or not licensed or intended for use on the public roads.
9. **"Public Right-Of-Way"** means the entire easement width of any publicly dedicated street, avenue, boulevard, highway, sidewalk, alley or similar place.
10. **"Public Property"** means any area available to the public including, but not limited to, parks and public buildings.
11. **"Residential Area"** means property used for temporary or permanent dwelling purposes, specifically land within the City of Dowagiac zoned R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, and O-S in accordance with the Zoning Districts established under Chapter 3 of the Zoning Ordinance.
12. **"Sound Level Meter"** means an instrument which includes a microphone, amplifier, RMS detector, integrator, or time averager, output meter and weighted networks used to measure Sound Pressure Levels. This instrument shall comply with the standards for Type 1 and Type 2 Sound Level Meters as specified in the American National Institute Standard ANSI S1.4-1971, or the successor thereto.
13. **"Sound Pressure Level"** means twenty (20) times the logarithm to the base ten (10) of the ratio of the RMS sound pressure to the reference pressure of twenty (20) micro-pascals. This Sound Pressure Level is expressed in Decibels.
14. **"City Council"** means the City Council of Dowagiac, Michigan.
15. **"Authorized City Officials"** means any designated Dowagiac City Police; Cass County Sheriff, Cass County Deputy Sheriff, any Michigan State Trooper, the City Manager, the City Zoning Administrator, and any authorized City official designated by a City ordinance; all of whom are authorized to investigate all complaints of violation of this Section 2.27.

SECTION 2.27-B: INTERFERENCE WITH SOUND MONITORING

It shall be unlawful for any Person to remove or render inaccurate or inoperative any Sound Level Meter or any similar monitoring instrument or device positioned for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Section 2.27.

SECTION 2.27-C: PROHIBITED ACTS, GENERALLY

A Person or Persons shall not create, assist in creating, continue, or permit the continuation of any excessive or unnecessarily loud disturbance or noise of a high volume or intensity which is clearly audible and disturbs, annoys, or endangers the calm, comfort, quiet, repose, health, peace or safety of others beyond the immediate vicinity of the disturbance. Such noise or loud disturbance shall be a violation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2.27-D: PROHIBITED ACTS, SPECIFICALLY

A Person or Persons shall not commit or cause to be committed any of the following acts of noise or loud disturbance which are deemed a violation of this Section 2.27:

1. The playing or use of any battery or electrically powered or electronic sound producing or amplifying device, speaker, or instrument, including a musical instrument, in such a manner or in such loud volume or intensity, at any time or place, so as to disturb, destroy, or endanger the comfort, repose, rest, or peace of the Persons beyond the immediate vicinity of the noise or disturbance.
2. The sound created by any domesticated animal kept or maintained by any Person, when such animal, noise or disturbance is frequent and continued and clearly audible at the distance beyond the immediate vicinity of the noise or disturbance during the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.; except as otherwise specifically exempted hereafter.
3. A Person or Persons shall not create a loud noise or disturbance in or with a motor vehicle so as to disturb or destroy or endanger the peace, comfort, or repose of Persons beyond the immediate vicinity of the source of the noise or disturbance. Such Person shall not operate a motor vehicle which is not equipped with a muffler in good working order and in use at all times. The use of cut-outs, by-passes, or similar device, shall be illegal and a violation of this Ordinance.
4. Engaging in any construction, repair, remodeling, demolition, drilling, or excavation work except from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

SECTION 2.27-E: MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE SOUND LEVELS

No Person shall conduct or permit any activity that produces sound levels, measured in decibels A-weighted (dBA), that exceed the maximum permissible sound pressure levels set forth in Table I, as measured at the Property Line of the zoning district receiving the sound. Where a property contains more than one zoning district classification, the maximum permissible sound levels applicable to the most noise-sensitive zoning district shall apply at the applicable Property Line.

Table I

Area of Property Receiving the Sound	7:01 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	10:01 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.
Residential Area	65 dBA	55 dBA
Commercial Area	65 dBA	65 dBA
Industrial Area	75 dBA	75 dBA

Measurement Standards: Sound pressure levels shall be measured using a sound level meter that complies with ANSI standards for Type 1 or Type 2 sound level meters, or successor standards. Measurements shall be taken in a manner consistent with accepted sound-measurement practices and at a location on the Property Line of the zoning district receiving the sound.

SECTION 2.27-F: GENERAL EXEMPTIONS

The following activities are exempted from specific prohibited acts and/or the Sound Pressure Level limitations set forth in Section D and Section E:

1. Emergency work necessary to restore property to a safe condition following a fire, accident or natural disaster; to restore public utilities; or to protect Persons or property from imminent danger;
2. Sounds made to alert Persons to the existence of an emergency, an imminent danger, or an attempted crime;
3. Parades, concerts, festivals, fairs, or similar activities, if approved by the City Council, subject to any Sound Pressure Limits specified in the City Council's approval;
4. Athletic, musical, or cultural activities or events (including practices and rehearsals) conducted by or under the auspices of public or private schools;
5. Sounds created on agriculturally zoned areas or parcels during the completion of generally accepted agricultural activities.
6. Sounds created while conducting yard work or lawn maintenance between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. including, but not limited to, lawn mowing, leaf blowing, brush clearing, and the use of chain saws, etc.
7. Sounds created during new construction, remodeling, or maintenance activities on a building or structure between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
8. Sounds created while removing snow from streets, roads, driveways or sidewalks necessary to allow safe access and transport.

SECTION 2.27-G: TEMPORARY EXEMPTIONS

1. The City Manager is authorized to grant a temporary exemption from the maximum permissible Sound Pressure Levels established by this Ordinance if such temporary exemption would be in the public interest, and if there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the activity or the method of conducting the activity for which the temporary exemption is sought. An application shall be filed in writing at least three (3) days prior to the proposed activity and directed to the City Manager. The application shall, at a minimum, include the name, address and telephone number of the applicant; the location, dates, and times of the proposed activity for which an exemption is sought; and any proposed controls on the activity to assure compliance. The following factors shall be considered by the City Manager in determining whether to grant a temporary exemption:
   a. The hardship to the applicant, the community and other Persons if the exemption is not granted, balanced against the adverse impact on the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of Persons if the exemption is granted;
   b. The nearness of any residence or residences, or any other land use which would be adversely affected by sound in excess of the Sound Pressure Levels prescribed by this Ordinance;
   c. The Sound Pressure Level to be generated by the activity for which the temporary exemption is sought;
   d. The density of population in the area where the activity is to take place; and
   e. The time of day or night during which the activity will take place.
3. A temporary exemption must be in writing and signed by the City Manager or the designee thereof; the writing must set forth the name of the Person granted the exemption, the location of the property for which it is authorized, the date(s) and time(s) for which it is effective and the Sound Pressure Level(s) authorized.
4. A temporary exemption may be granted only for the period of time that is reasonably necessary to conduct the activity, which in no case may exceed thirty (30) days, and is subject to review upon objection by any owner or occupant of adjoining property.

SECTION 2.27-H: VARIANCES

Persons wishing to continue activities which commenced prior to this Ordinance and which create noise in excess of what is allowed by this Ordinance may seek a variance from the City Council. Such a variance may be granted if the City Council finds that strict application of this Ordinance would cause an unreasonable hardship and that there is no reasonable and prudent alternative method of engaging in the activity.

SECTION 2.27-I: PENALTIES

A violation of this Ordinance is a municipal civil infraction enforceable by Authorized City Officials and punishable pursuant to the City of Dowagiac Code of Ordinances Article IX.

SECTION 2.27-J: LIABILITY OF OWNER, LESSEE OR OCCUPANT

If the Person responsible for an activity which violates this Ordinance cannot be determined, the owner of the property upon which the activity is located shall be deemed responsible for the violation unless the property is leased or occupied by Persons other than the owner, in which case the lessees or occupants shall be responsible for the violation.

SECTION 2.27-K: REPEAL

All other ordinances, parts of ordinances, or amendments thereto, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 2.27-L: SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any clause, sentence, word, section, or provision is hereafter declared void or unenforceable for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the remainder of such Ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 2.27-L: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance was approved and adopted by the City Council of Dowagiac on the 23 day of March 2026.
This Ordinance shall take effect on the 13 day of April 2026, (twenty (20) days after publication)

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN,
THIS 23rd DAY OF March 2026.
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF DOWAGIAC,
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

By: _____
Patrick Bakeman, Mayor
Attested by:
_____
Patty Patano, City Clerk

White Space Sells

OUTDOORS

Submitting hunting or fishing photos

Have a behemoth buck, a tremendous turkey or super-sized salmon? Please submit photos to sports@TheHP.com.

Your photo must be in focus, all persons in the photo must be identified, and the general location of the hunt must be provided (for example, 10-point buck shot in Benton Township, black bear shot near Munising, Mich., etc.)

Photo provided / Brad Anderson

A brown thrasher in mid-March at the home of Brad and Hannah Anderson of Bridgman.

Brown thrasher a surprise sight in March

Brad and Hannah Anderson of Bridgman were visited by a brown thrasher in mid-March. A photo of the bird accompanies this column. The brown thrasher is a common songbird across the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and in nearby states, and uncommon in the Upper Peninsula. It is often seen foraging for food on the ground, or perched in treetops where the male sings to defend his nesting territory and to attract a mate.

Jonathan Wuepper
Southwest Michigan Wildlife

Brown thrashers prefer shrubby thickets, vine tangles, and shrub undergrowth and avoid large forested areas. They are the only species of thrasher to inhabit eastern North America. In winter, most brown thrashers migrate to the southeastern U.S. where winters are less severe. A very few individuals may stay in Michigan for the winter season. Birders are lucky to find a single brown thrasher in the Great Lakes area from November through March. Anderson's brown thrasher sighting is noteworthy because it was found about three weeks prior to the average spring arrival date. It is difficult to categorize Anderson's brown thrasher as an early spring migrant or a lone overwintering individual.

Brown thrashers are nearly a foot in length from their beak to the end of their long tails. The species has a rusty-brown back, a heavily brown-spotted breast with a white background, and yellow eyes.

Photo provided / Brad Anderson

An American tree sparrow on March 12 in Bridgman.

Brown thrashers typically arrive back in Southwest Michigan during the first few days of April, with males usually arriving before females. Nesting occurs from late April through early July in our region. Nests are often built on the ground, but also among vine tangles or a small tree or shrub. Nests are constructed out of small twigs, leaves, dead grass and lines with grass or rootlets. An average of four greenish-blue eggs are laid and two broods per year may be raised in southern Michigan.

Most brown thrashers depart Southwest Michigan by Oct. 12; some linger into November. The species is usually absent from our region from late November through March, save for an occasional individual sighting.

Brad Anderson recently submitted a photo of an American tree sparrow, which is common in our area from mid-October through mid-April. The species nests in the far north of Canada among boreal forests and willow thickets. One diagnostic mark of this small sparrow is the single dark spot in the center of its grayish breast. Male and female sparrows of all species have the same plumage.

Just as the American tree sparrow is departing our region, a close relative, the chipping sparrow, arrives for the summer.

Jonathan Wuepper is an area naturalist. Report your sightings to him at wuepperj@gmail.com

Why tulips, cherry blossoms are blooming early in western part of Washington state

By KAI UYEHARA
The Seattle Times (TNS)

SEATTLE — You might know the proverb "April showers bring May flowers," but have you ever heard that warm dry winters bring spring flowers quicker?

Probably not, because the new saying hasn't been approved by the mythical proverb-officiants, but it's a reality nonetheless.

Months of warm temperatures and a lack of rain mean early blooms for tulips and cherry blossoms in western Washington state, according to experts.

Blooms are moving targets, impacted by weather each year. But this spring, the two will align. Cherry blossoms at the University of Washington campus are expected to peak, and tulips in Skagit Valley are set to begin blooming in earnest this weekend.

So pack up the car and grab your camera, you've got weekend plans.

The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival plans a month of tulip-related events in Mount Vernon – the "Netherlands of the Northwest" – beginning April 1. But this year, growers at the festival's four tulip gardens expect a historically early bloom starting as early as Saturday, said executive director Nicole Roozen.

Last year, the festival saw a more traditional bloom at the beginning of April, and a bloom in 2024 didn't even start until the second week of April, Roozen said. Each bloom is expected to last about a month.

This year's warm winter has signaled to the plants that it's time to bloom early, Roozen said.

Think back to your school days learning about photosynthesis. Warmer temperatures, typical of spring, signal to the plant where it's at in its cycle.

This Western Washington winter was the eighth warmest since the National Weather Service began its records in 1945, said meteorologists Anna Lindeman and Logan Howard. December was the third warmest on record.

While December was wetter than normal with nearly 8.5 inches of rain compared to its average of just less than 6 inches, January and February were quite dry. January only got 4.25 inches compared to an average of over 5.5, while February got just shy of 3 inches compared to an average of 4, Lindeman and Howard said.

Spring is warming and thawing earlier, said Climate Central, a nonprofit group of independent climate scientists. The first leaves of spring are emerging earlier across the nation.

Sarett Nature Center

Sarett Nature Stewards: 2-4 p.m. each Wednesday. This program is a way to experience Sarett in a whole different way. By being a nature steward you are helping Sarett but you also gain a sense of well-being. Sarett's crew will teach you many different skills such as collecting viable seeds for future planting, how to identify invasive species from native ones, removing invasive plants, and more. Ages 10+.

Birding for Beginners: 9-11 a.m. April 11, April 18 and May 2. This introduction will cover everything you need to know about birding, whether you are wondering which birds are visiting your feeders or if you want to go far afield. Sarett will even provide binoculars for you to use during class time. Cost is $5 per class for members, $7 for non-members. Call 927-4832 to register.

Watervliet Rod & Gun Club

Ladies Day Basic Firearm Safety and Training Class: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. May 23 at the club, 3413 Hennessey Road in Watervliet. Ladies, here is your chance to learn to safely handle and use firearms, and learn about different kinds of ammunition and firearms. Have the opportunity to shoot .22 caliber handguns, rifles, and 20-gauge shotguns on the range with one-to-one instruction. Cost is $30. Lunch, firearms and ammo provided. Bring eye and ear protection. For more information, call (269) 470-9191 or (269) 861-5156, or email wrg49098@gmail.com.

Michigan Concealed Pistol Classes: Held monthly at the club. Cost is $100. For more information or to register, call (269) 470-9191 or (269) 463-8785, or go to watervlietrodandgunclub.org

Email info for Get Outdoors to sports@TheHP.com, or call 429-1294 by Monday.

Colorado River may deliver just one-third of its normal water supply this spring

By ELISE SCHMELZER
The Denver Post (TNS)

DENVER — Extended warm weather across the Colorado River basin may reduce the amount of water delivered during the spring runoff to just a third of normal, according to federal forecasters.

Modeling released in March showed the river system on track to deliver a scant 2.3 million acre-feet to Lake Powell, one of the river system's largest reservoirs. That's 36 percent of the median of 6.4 million acre-feet recorded between 1991 and 2020. If the forecast comes true, it would be the fifth-lowest inflow to Lake Powell since the reservoir's establishment in 1963, according to the National Weather Service's Colorado Basin River Forecast Center.

"It's not a pretty picture here," Cody Moser, a hydrologist with the center, said of the basin's snowpack during a briefing on the forecast Friday.

A chart from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center shows projected water supplies for the Colorado River basin compared to normal in 2026. (Provided by Colorado Basin River Forecast Center) Lake Powell and its counterpart, Lake Mead, make up the vast majority of water storage on the Colorado River, which provides drinking water to 40 million people, sustains millions of acres of agriculture and provides critical wildlife habitat.

Lower-than-expected water supplies can lead to fallowed farm fields, drought restrictions in cities and difficult decisions for water managers tasked with divvying up the meager supplies. All of western Colorado relies on water from the river and its tributaries. Front Range communities, too, need the river. Half the supplies used by Denver Water's 1.5 million customers comes from the Colorado River.

Lake Powell, located primarily in southern Utah, collects water from the states upstream of it – Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico – and releases water to three states below – Arizona, Nevada and California.

Negotiators from the seven Colorado River basin states for more than two years have tried to agree on a plan to split up the river's water, but so far they have failed. The river's current operation guidelines expire at the end of the calendar year.

Already, federal officials predict water levels could fall so low at Lake Powell by August that water will no longer flow through the intake tubes for Glen Canyon Dam's hydroelectric turbines. Lake Powell at the beginning of March was 24 percent full, while Mead – which is in Nevada and Arizona – was 34 percent full.

Much of the Colorado River's water begins as snow in Colorado's mountains, which have been plagued by record-low snowfall this winter.

The Colorado River headwaters' snowpack sat at 66 percent of the median for this time of year on Monday – the lowest recorded level since measurements began in 1986.

"The Colorado headwaters are the worst this water year; they're well below normal," Moser said, noting that many winter storms missed the area.

Other regions in the basin have fared better. Basinwide, precipitation amounts are similar to those recorded last season.

Some areas, like the Green River basin above Flaming Gorge Reservoir – which straddles the Wyoming-Utah border – have received above-average precipitation.

But record heat erased any good news about precipitation, Moser said. Much of the Colorado River basin experienced the warmest winter on record, he said.

Higher temperatures convert would-be snowstorms into rainstorms. When it rains instead of snowing, more of the water is absorbed by the soil, evaporates or is sucked up by plants – reducing the amount of water available for human use.

The heat also has dried out soils across the basin, which means that the ground will absorb more water than normal, decreasing the amount expected to flow downstream.

Some snow has already begun to melt – even at elevations as high as 10,000 feet, Moser said.

River gauges are already recording daytime melting, Moser said, including on tributaries to the Yampa River in Colorado and on the rivers and streams above Blue Mesa Reservoir outside Gunnison. Typically, the snow in those mountains does not begin to melt until early April.

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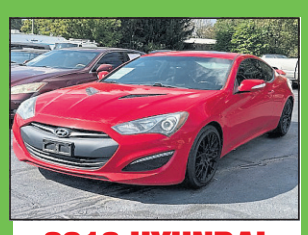

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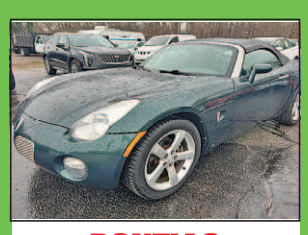

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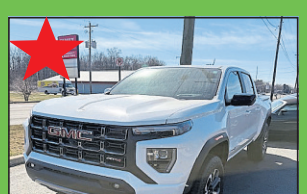

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